

**THE BEGINNING OF  
THE END OF EBM?**

Recently the following appeared in the proceedings of a national scientific meeting:

*Every so often scientific medicine needs a fix*

*And EBM is the current iron fist*

*That reductionists use in a power play*

*So that clinical experience has less sway.*

*EBM enjoys a widespread cult status*

*With RCTs and meta-analyses its overpowering flatus.*

*Its ethos demands that statistics advise,*

*Whereas clinical opinion is a despicable vice!*

*There is no denying that EBM is a good move*

*To embed medicine solidly in scientific proof.*

*Increasingly, however, clinicians are less keen,*

*For cook-book medicine is not their scene.*

*And the applicability of RCTs to the complex patient*

*Sorely tests a practitioner's patience.*

*Nor are they happy that those litigation lions*

*May be plundering their assets with EB guidelines.*

*But EBM is waning on the scientific stage*

*As genomic medicine becomes the next new rage.*

*Yes, EBM is moving into a recession*

*As society becomes besotted with a new obsession*

*That effectively dismisses the EBM sage,*

*For alternative medicine is now centre stage.*

(Martin Van Der Weyden, 2003)

Is this caustic cynicism or perceptive prophecy?

Only time will tell.

**Martin B Van Der Weyden**

**LETTERS**

**Parallel infusion of hydrocortisone ± chlorpheniramine bolus injection to prevent acute adverse reactions to antivenom for snakebites**

Simon G A Brown 428  
S Abeysingha M Kularatne, Indika B Gawarammana 428  
Val J GebSKI 429

**Multidisciplinary care for women with early breast cancer in the Australian context**

Michael A Quinn 429  
Susan C Pendlebury, Katherine J Clark, Martin H N Tattersall 430  
Helen M Zorbas, Bruce H Barraclough, Katherine J Rainbird, Karen A Luxford, Sally Redman 430

**Australian rural high school students' interest in health careers: implications for our future workforce?**

John Fraser, Christian Alexander, Berniece Simpkins 431

**Nodular melanomas and older men: a major challenge for community surveillance programs**

Alex J Chamberlain, John W Kelly 432

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Erectile dysfunction and related disorders**

*Reviewed by Michael P Lowy* 416

**CORRECTIONS**

**"Overweight and obesity in Australia: the 1999–2000 Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle Study (AusDiab)"**

(*Med J Aust* 2003; 178: 427–432) 418

**"Bone and joint disorders: prevention and control"**

(*Med J Aust* 2004; 180 (5 Suppl): S1–S40) 418

**"Parallel infusion of hydrocortisone ± chlorpheniramine bolus injection to prevent acute adverse reactions to antivenom for snakebites"**

(*Med J Aust* 2004; 180: 20–23) 428

**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**

370

**IN OTHER JOURNALS . . .**

426



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