

**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



MJA RAPID ONLINE PUBLICATION: Denotes an article fast tracked for online publication.

Find what you need at www.mja.com.au

- Current and past Journal issues (including searchable archives)
- eMJA Online Trader classifieds
- eMJA Bookroom reviews and books
- Instructions for authors
- eMJA JobSearch powered by Seek