This section of the journal serves to highlight the works and researches done by local doctors or doctors either in Brunei Darussalam or in collaborations with other centres that have been published in regional or international journals. This also includes works published as part of collaboration with centres outside of Brunei Darussalam. These works include review articles, original articles and case reports published between 15th August 2012 to 14th December 2012. (Some publications have been published or indexed at a later date than publication).

**Weak Laws against Acid Attacks on Women: an Indian Perspective.**
Ahmad N.

**ABSTRACT**
Acid attacks, especially on women, have seen an alarming growth in India over the last decade. While these attacks can be attributed to various factors such as the social weakness of women in a male-dominated society, the situation is exacerbated by the general neglect of the lawmakers. As acid is inexpensive and easily available, it serves as an ideal weapon for the perpetrators. Further, as this offence is bailable in certain situations, the punishment does not act as a sufficient deterrent in most cases. This paper describes the horrendous effects that acid attacks have on the victims physically, psychologically and socially. It also examines the contemporary laws governing acid attacks on victims and offenders. Ideas for a better legal approach will also be examined with special reference to acid attacks as a crime, and the validity of specific legal provisions for female victims.

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**Oesophageal tuberculosis: rare but not to be forgotten.**
Momin N, Chong VH.

**ABSTRACT**
Tuberculosis remains an important cause of morbidity and mortality, especially in underdeveloped and developing nations. Manifestations could be nonspecific and may mimic many other conditions, including malignancies. Oesophageal involvement is surprisingly rare despite the high prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis and the close proximity of these two structures. We report two cases of oesophageal tuberculosis; a 73-year-old man with simultaneous oesophageal, stomach and duodenal involvement, and a 45-year-old man with isolated oesophageal involvement. Underlying malignancies were initially suspected in both cases, but they were eventually diagnosed as tuberculosis.

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**Cervical cancer in Brunei Darussalam.**

**ABSTRACT**
Introduction: Cervical cancer caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV) is a common cancer in women. There is no published data on the recent incidence of cervical dysplasia, cervical cancer and genital warts caused by the different types of HPVs in Brunei Darussalam. Methods: A cross-sectional, retrospective study was conducted utilising data from patients diagnosed with cervical cancer during the period 2005-2009 in Brunei Darussalam. The varying incidences of different types of cervical lesions among various ethnic and age groups, and in the overall population, were determined. Results: The mean age-standardised incidence of invasive cervical cancer during the five-year period was 24.9 per 100,000 women per year (95% confidence interval [CI] 21.7, 28.1). Age-specific invasive cervical cancer incidence peaked in the age group 45-59 years. Chinese females tended to have a higher incidence of invasive cervical cancer (28.2 per 100,000 women per year; 95% CI 17.8, 38.7) than...
years. Chinese females tended to have a higher incidence of invasive cervical cancer (28.2 per 100,000 women per year; 95% CI 17.8, 38.7) than Malay females (20.6 per 100,000 women per year; 95% CI 17.1, 24.2), while other ethnic groups in Brunei Darussalam had a significantly lower incidence (6.5 per 100,000 women per year; 95% CI 3.0, 10.0). Conclusion: The results suggest that Brunei Darussalam has a relatively higher incidence of cervical cancer compared to its neighbouring countries. The findings support the need for more comprehensive screening, public education programmes and vaccination against HPV in the country.

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Article is available from the journal website at http://www.sma.org.sg/UploadedImg/files/SMJ/5309/5309a8.pdf

Customer expectation of e-health systems in Brunei Darussalam.

ABSTRACT
This study seeks to determine the dimension of e-health services in Brunei Darussalam from the customer's perspective. The study seeks to identify, understand, analyze, and evaluate the public's expectation of e-health in Brunei Darussalam. A questionnaire was designed to gather quantitative and qualitative data to survey patients, the patient's family, and health practitioners at hospitals, clinics, or home care centers in Brunei Darussalam from February to March 2011. A 25-item Likert-type survey instrument was specifically developed for this study and administered to a sample of 366 patients. These data were analyzed to provide initial ideas and recommendations to policy makers on how to move forward with the e-health initiative as a means to improve health care services. The survey revealed that there is a high demand and expectation from people of Brunei to have better health care services through an e-health system in order to improve health literacy as well as quality and efficiency of health care. Regardless of the limitations of the survey, the general public has responded to the questionnaire with great support for the abilities of an e-health system. The results of the survey provide a solid foundation for our ongoing research project to proceed further to develop the model of e-health and subsequently to develop a system prototype that incorporates expectations from patients.

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Can we reduce workplace fatalities by half?

ABSTRACT
Singapore, an island republic of over 5 million inhabitants, has 3.1 million workers. Most are employed in the service, finance and tourist/transport industry. Significant numbers work in manufacturing, construction and heavy industry. Following a series of construction and shipyard accidents with multiple deaths in 2004, the government announced its intention to reduce workplace fatalities from 4.9 to 2.5 per 100,000 by 2015. There was strong political will to achieve this target. The strategic approaches were to build workplace safety and health (WSH) capabilities; implement legislative changes with enforcement; promote benefits of WSH and recognize best practices, and enhance partnership with stakeholders. The anticipated outcomes were to reduce workplace fatality and injury rates; have WSH as an integral part of business; and establish a progressive and pervasive WSH culture. With these measures, the workplace fatality rate declined from 4.9/100,000 in 2004, to 2.2/100,000 in 2010. However, other confounding factors could also account for this decline, and have to be considered. The next target, announced by Singapore's Prime Minister in 2008, is to further reduce the workplace fatality rate to 1.8/100,000 by 2018, and to have "one of the best workplace safety records in the world".

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Acute kidney injury in dengue virus infection
ABSTRACT

Background: Dengue is a growing public health problem in Pakistan and acute kidney injury (AKI) is one of the least studied complications of dengue virus infection (DVI). The aim of this study was to determine the frequency, severity and predictors of AKI in patients with DVI and to study the impact of AKI on the length of hospital stay and mortality.

Methods: We retrospectively reviewed medical records of patients aged ≥14 years hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of DVI at Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi between January 2008 and December 2010. Binary logistic regression models were constructed to identify factors associated with the development of AKI and to study the impact of AKI on hospital stays of more than 3 days.

Results: Out of 532 patients, AKI was present in 13.3% (71/532). Approximately two-thirds (64.8%) of these patients had mild AKI and a third (35.2%) had moderate to severe AKI. Independent predictors for AKI were male gender [odds ratio (OR) 4.43; 95% CI 1.92–10.23], presence of dengue hemorrhagic and dengue shock syndrome (DSS, OR 2.14; 95% CI 1.06–4.32), neurological involvement (OR 12.08; 95% CI 2.82–51.77) and prolonged activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT, OR 1.81; 95% CI 1.003–3.26). AKI was associated with a length of stay ≥3 days when compared with those who did not have AKI (OR 2.98; 95% CI 1.66–5.34). Eight patients (11.3%) with AKI died whereas there were no mortalities in patients without AKI (P < 0.001). Only 5 patients (7%) had persistent kidney dysfunction at discharge.

Conclusions: AKI in DVI is associated with neurological involvement, prolongation of aPTT, greater length of hospital stay and increased mortality.

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Pre-imaginal development of Aedes aegypti in brackish and fresh water urban domestic wells in Sri Lanka.

Surendran SN, Jude PJ, Thabothiny V, Raveendran S, Ramasamy R.

No abstract available

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Spectrum of intra-ocular foreign bodies and the outcome of their management in Brunei Darussalam.

George J, Ali N, Rahman NA, Joshi N.

Abstract

To review the etiologies, prognostic factors and treatment outcomes of intraocular foreign bodies (IOFBs) occurring in the population of Brunei Darussalam, and provide guidelines to prevent and manage such injuries. A retrospective review was performed for all cases of traumatic IOFBs managed in our centre during a 3-year period between May 2008 and April 2011. The mechanism of injury, management, complications and visual outcomes were analyzed. Majority of the patients were males (93 %) and the mean age was 36 years. The main causes of trauma were metal hammering and grass cutting (43 % each). Other causes include road traffic accidents and firecracker explosion (7 % each). The visual outcome was ≥6/18 in 50 % and ‘No perception of light’ in 29 %. Causes of poor visual outcome were retinal detachment with proliferative vitreoretinopathy (21 %), endophthalmitis (21 %) and globe maceration (7 %). Prognostic factors associated with significantly worse final visual outcome included posterior location of the IOFB (p = 0.05) and larger IOFB size (p < 0.001). The time from injury to surgery did not correlate with a worse visual prognosis. In Brunei Darussalam, the commonest causes of IOFBs are hammering metal and cutting grass using power tools. The visual outcome varies between 6/6 and NPL. Poor visual outcome is related to the severity of the initial ocular injury, posterior segment IOFB and endophthalmitis.

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Signet ring cell lymphoma of the small bowel: A case report.
Basir N, Bickle IC, Telisinghe PU, Abdullah MS, Chong VH.

ABSTRACT
Gastrointestinal lymphoma of the bowel is uncommon compared to adenocarcinoma. Signet ring cell lymphoma (SRCL) is a rare variant of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that is characterized by clear cytoplasm with displaced nuclei to the periphery giving a signet ring appearance. Small bowel involvement has not been previously reported. We report the rare case of a 78-year-old female who presented with short history of fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, mild weight loss with abdominal discomfort and was later diagnosed to have SRCL of the ileum.

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A rare case of dysphagia secondary to a large oesophageal lipoma
Koh KS, Chong VH, Yapp SKS, Chong CF.

SUMMARY
Dysphagia is considered a warning symptom that requires exclusion of significant pathology such as oesophageal cancer, especially in elderly patients. Benign neoplasms of the oesophagus are rare. We report the case of a 69-year-old lady who presented with a five years history of infrequent intermittent dysphagia that had rapidly progressed over one month. This was associated with globus sensation, weight loss, intermittent episodes of stridor and aspiration pneumonia. Investigations revealed a large oesophageal lipoma in the proximal oesophagus extending down to the lower oesophagus. This was successfully resected via a left cervical approach. She remained well two years after the surgery.

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Working towards a healthier Brunei
Irene Poh-Ai Cheong

Abstract
Brunei Darussalam is a small equatorial country of 5,765 square kilometers that lies on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo. An affluent nation, its economy is based mostly on oil and gas. Brunei's GDP per capita of US$50,117 places the country fifth highest on this index internationally (International Monetary Fund, 2010). The population of Brunei is about 398,000, with Malays, who are Muslims, forming the majority (just under 67% of the country’s people) (Prime Minister's Office, 2008). The annual population growth rate is just over 2.0%; life expectancy is 75 years (Central Intelligence Agency, 2010).