

SATIRE

Compendium of rejected CMAJ manuscripts: 2009

MMRI (Mummified Magnetic Resonance Imaging) wait times

Radiologists at the University of Western Ontario recently performed magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) on an Egyptian mummy from the XX Dynasty.¹ An unpublished chart review (“Mummies to mums: wait times for the new millennium”) revealed that the MRI was ordered on Apr. 12, 1191 BC to rule out an aortic aneurysm. The 3200 year wait for this study dramatically reduced the average national waiting time for an MRI.

Blood tests showed that the mummy has iron-deficiency anemia, so a colonoscopy has been scheduled for August of 3512.

Beyond JUPITER

The JUPITER trial (Justification for the Use of statins in Primary prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin) showed that statins reduce vascular events in patients with elevated C-reactive protein (CRP). An unpublished follow up trial, PLUTO-CRPs (Pap Lab tests Underutilized by TOo Many CRPers), showed that women with an elevated CRP should undergo routine PAP smears and take folic acid before getting pregnant. MARS (Medical care Access determined by Result of a Suspect test) showed that people with elevated CRP also benefit from vaccinations and routine medical care. The authors stressed that additional large and poorly planned studies are needed. None of these studies will measure levels of CRP after the intervention, just like the JUPITER trial.

Sorry, but I can't

Apology laws have allayed fears of physicians apologizing to patients for making errors by making such apologies inadmissible in malpractice litigation.² A National Physician Politeness bill died on the floor of the House of Commons. The proposed bill would have allowed physicians to make eye contact with patients, allow patients to finish sentences, and pronounce patients' names correctly without fear litigation for malpractice (failing to provide standard care). Legal associations have advised physicians not to engage in such behaviour until a revised bill is passed.



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Guideline guidance

New Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) guidelines suggest that the Women's Health Initiative study misled the public and that, in fact, HRT is safe. An unpublished meta-guideline proposed that future guidelines should be adopted more rapidly so that patients can benefit from them before they are obsolete.

Keeping out the gate keepers

A recent studied showed that, on average, Canadian physicians are getting older.³ An unpublished secondary analysis showed that doctors are also getting more jaded, less hip, less cool and less young.

The same study showed that there are more specialists than family physicians in Ontario. An unpublished feasibility analysis predicted that this gap will widen. By 2020, Ontarians with lower back pain will receive spinal decompression surgery before being assessed by their family physician. The history and physical examination of a patient with abdominal pain will be informed by a prior exploratory laparotomy. Smoking cessation counselling by a family physician will be undertaken only if a patient fails two lung transplants.

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Table 1: Several terms that will be retained indefinitely

New-speak term	Old-speak term	Example sentence
Health opportunity	Illness	The patient developed his health opportunity when he was struck by a truck.
Unique drug feature	Adverse drug reaction	Most patients taking the drug experienced the unique drug feature of cardiovascular collapse.
Static health state	Death	The patient was transferred out of the ICU in a static health state.
Idiosyncratic care	Medical error	The tribunal concluded that the physician's decision to manage chest pain with pink lady was idiosyncratic care.

Doubling double speak

The British Medical Association passed a motion urging the term “patient” be used instead of newly popular management-speak terms such as “client” or “service user.”⁴ An unpublished commentary discussed several terms that will, however, be retained indefinitely (Table 1).

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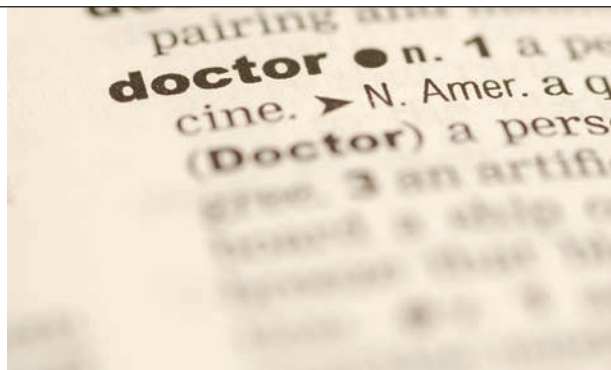
RANT

I ... Am ... A ... Doctor

I’m not a government employee or a drug pusher
 and I don’t cycle patients through my office like a factory
 treadmill,
 or go on golfing trips with Big Pharma,
 or drive a Mercedes Benz like a fat cat.
 And I don’t know the latest CNN medical recall, or how a
 fat loss drug from Walmart works
 Although I am certain that Health Canada is working on
 it!

I have gone to university for over a decade ... with over
 \$100 000 in debt,
 I have delayed many things in my life to achieve my MD
 And I honor the Hippocratic Oath, not the Hypocritical
 Oath.

I can proudly display my rod of Asclepius and my white
 coat,
 I believe in health promotion, not morbidity and
 mortality rounds,
 Primary then secondary prevention
 And that Tommy Douglas is the greatest Canadian of all
 time.



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Universal health care is a right,
 William Osler belongs to Canada,
 And a doctor is a physician
 not a chiropractor, nor a dentist!
 Canada has the second highest life expectancy
 The lowest percentage of MRIs in the G8
 And the highest quality medical marijuana in North
 America

My name is Dr. Joe ...
 And ... I ... Am ... A ... Doctor! Thank you.

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