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CASE REPORT

A case of life threatening postpartum haemorrhage

A 34 year old pregnant woman (para 4+0, gravida 4) presented because of intrauterine death at 30 weeks after a viral illness. Antepartum haemorrhage occurred during a trial of labour and emergency caesarean section was performed. The patient then had a massive postpartum haemorrhage, which did not respond to intrauterine balloon tamponade. Hysterectomy was performed but bleeding continued. She developed disseminated intravascular coagulation and needed more than 90 units of blood. Haemostasis was achieved after transcatheter embolisation.

- 1 Who is at increased risk of postpartum haemorrhage?
- 2 What are the management options?
- 3 What are the benefits and risks of transcatheter embolisation?
- 4 Under what circumstances can interventional radiological techniques be used electively to prevent major postpartum haemorrhage?

Submitted by S Macdonald, K Brown, M Wyatt
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PICTURE QUIZ

Retinopathy of prematurity

The figure above is a wide field image taken with a RetCam (Clarity Inc, Pleasanton, CA, USA) at 39⁺⁴ weeks' postmenstrual age from a baby born at 27⁺⁵ weeks' gestation (birth weight 940 g). He needed prolonged ventilation for respiratory distress syndrome, and he underwent surgery for necrotising enterocolitis. Now aged 5, he is seen regularly at the eye clinic for myopia and intermittent exotropia, which his mother reports is most obvious at the end of the day.

- 1 Which preterm babies are screened for retinopathy of prematurity in the United Kingdom?
- 2 What stage of retinopathy of prematurity does this baby have and how should he be managed?
- 3 What other ophthalmic sequelae are common in children born prematurely?

Submitted by Clare M Wilson, Alistair R Fielder
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STATISTICAL QUESTION

Who said it?

Who said the following?

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| a) "To understand God's thoughts we must study statistics, for these are the measure of His purpose" | Joseph Stalin |
| b) "A single death is a tragedy; a million is a statistic" | Samuel Johnson |
| c) "Statistical thinking will one day be as necessary for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write" | H G Wells |
| d) "Round numbers are always false" | Florence Nightingale |
| | Mark Twain |

Submitted by John Fletcher
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PRIZE QUIZ: Trauma

Each week we offer a prize of a *BMJ* memory stick to the person who answers correctly, in the quickest time, a set of examination questions taken from OnExamination. To enter the quiz, go to www.onexamination.com/endgames. The competition closes at midnight on Wednesday, and the winner will be announced in the print *BMJ*.

Answers to this question can be viewed at
www.onexamination.com/Endgames/LastEndgame.aspx.

Here's one question from this week's quiz on trauma from a range of examinations:

In a patient with multisystem trauma, the presence of hypotension along with elevated central venous pressure is suggestive of:
 (Please select one option)

- Upper airway obstruction
- Major abdominal bleed
- Cardiopulmonary problem
- Spinal cord injury

The winner of the prize quiz on the eye was Dr J Gallagher