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Editorial Office

BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, BMA House,

Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK

T: +44 (0)20 7383 6147

F: +44 (0)20 7383 6668

E: thorax@bmjgroup.com

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Contents

Volume 66 Issue 6 | THORAX June 2011

Editorials

- 457** Clinical trials and tribulations: the MASCOT study

W Lenney, S Perry, D Price

- 459** Lessons to be learnt from unsuccessful clinical trials

R L Smyth

- 460** Recognising the importance of national respiratory audits

C E Bucknall, N A Maskell

Original articles

Interstitial lung disease

- 462** The rising incidence of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in the UK

V Navaratnam, K M Fleming, J West, C J P Smith, R G Jenkins, A Fogarty, R B Hubbard

Paediatric lung disease

- 468** Lung function prior to viral lower respiratory tract infections in prematurely born infants

S B Drysdale, T Wilson, M Alcazar, S Broughton, M Zuckerman, M Smith, G F Rafferty, S L Johnston, A Greenough

- 474** Maternal and child's vitamin D supplement use and vitamin D level in relation to childhood lung function: the KOALA Birth Cohort Study

E Cremers, C Thijs, J Penders, E Jansen, M Mommers

Cystic fibrosis

- 481** Lung Clearance Index and HRCT are complementary markers of lung abnormalities in young children with CF

C M Owens, P Aurora, S Stanojevic, A Bush, A Wade, C Oliver, A Calder, J Price, S B Carr, A Shankar, J Stocks, on behalf of the London Cystic Fibrosis Collaboration

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

- 489** Induced sputum genes associated with spirometric and radiological disease severity in COPD ex-smokers

D Singh, S M Fox, R Tal-Singer, J Plumb, S Bates, P Broad, J H Riley, B Celli, on behalf of the ECLIPSE Investigators

Tuberculosis

- 496** The impact of isoniazid preventive therapy and antiretroviral therapy on tuberculosis in children infected with HIV in a high tuberculosis incidence setting

L J Frigati, K Kranzer, M F Cotton, H S Schaaf, C J Lombard, H J Zar

Asthma

- 502** Prescribing of β -adrenoceptor antagonists in asthma: an observational study

D R Morales, B Guthrie, B J Lipworth, P T Donnan, C Jackson

- 508** Factors influencing asthma remission: a longitudinal study from childhood to middle age

J A Burgess, M C Matheson, L C Gurrin, G B Byrnes, K S Adams, C L Wharton, G G Giles, M A Jenkins, J L Hopper, M J Abramson, E H Walters, S C Dharmage

- 514** Internet-based tapering of oral corticosteroids in severe asthma: a pragmatic randomised controlled trial

S Hashimoto, A T Brinke, A C Roldaan, I H van Veen, G M Möller, J K Sont, E J M Weersink, J S van der Zee, G-J Braunstahl, A H Zwinderman, P J Sterk, E H Bel

Lung cancer

- 521** Unbalanced oxidant-induced DNA damage and repair in COPD: a link towards lung cancer

G Caramori, I M Adcock, P Casolari, K Ito, E Jazrawi, L Tsaprouni, G Villetti, M Civelli, C Carnini, K F Chung, P J Barnes, A Papi

Review

- 528** Parasitic infections of the lung: a guide for the respiratory physician

H Kunst, D Mack, O M Kon, A K Banerjee, P Chiodini, A Grant

[MORE CONTENTS ►](#)

Cover credit: Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis (IPF). Computed tomography (CT) scan of lungs affected by IPF. The two dark structures are the lungs. The white space in the upper centre is the heart. The left lung is the most severely affected, with diseased tissue appearing white. IPF is characterised by progressive thickening and stiffening of the lining of the air sacs in the lungs, causing breathlessness and pain. The cause is often unknown but in some cases the disease is thought to result from an autoimmune disorder. Without treatment IPF can lead to heart failure or bronchopneumonia. Treatment depends on the suspected underlying cause. SCIENCE SOURCE / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY.



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PostScript**537** Letters to the editor**540** Correspondence

Chest Clinic**Pulmonary puzzle****546** Muscle weakness in extremities and diffuse centrilobular nodules in lungs*M Fujii, Y Sumi, K Atarashi, T Takemura, N Inase***Audit update****548** British Thoracic Society adult community acquired pneumonia audit 2009/10*W S Lim, M Woodhead, on behalf of the British Thoracic Society***Basic science for the Chest Physician****550** Leukotriene A4 hydrolase: an anti-inflammatory role for a proinflammatory enzyme*R J Snelgrove***Images in Thorax****553** Fatal haemoptysis caused by a ruptured Rasmussen's aneurysm*S-Y Shih, I-C Tsai, Y-T Chang, Y-T Tsan, S-Y Hu*

Miscellanea**473** Journal club: A role for cigarette fumes in the development of emphysema through reduced alveolar cell proliferation and upregulation of apoptosis*M East***501** Journal club: Gefitinib as first-line treatment in advanced NSCLC with mutated EGFR*S Naheed***520** Journal club: Inhaled nitric oxide does not prevent bronchopulmonary dysplasia*A Bhatta*