



CAEP | Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians  
25 years of leadership in emergency medicine  
ACMU | Association canadienne des médecins d'urgence  
25 ans de leadership en médecine d'urgence

www.caep.ca

PRESIDENT / PRÉSIDENT

François P. Bélanger, MD

Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine  
Journal canadien de la médecine d'urgence

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / RÉDACTEUR EN CHEF

Grant Innes, MD ginn@interchange.ubc.ca  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS / RÉDACTEURS ADJOINT

Garth Dickinson, MD garth.dickinson@rogers.com  
University of Ottawa, Ottawa

James Ducharme, MD jim\_ducharme@bigfoot.com  
Dalhousie University, Saint John, NB

MANAGING EDITOR / RÉDACTRICE ADMINISTRATIVE

Heidi Innes, BSc, BEd ginn@interchange.ubc.ca

ASSOCIATE EDITORS / RÉDACTEURS ASSOCIÉS

EM ADVANCES (original research)

Ian G. Stiell, MD, MSc, University of Ottawa, Ottawa

Jacques S. Lee, MD, University of Toronto, Toronto

CJEM JOURNAL CLUB

Michael J. Bullard, MD, University of Alberta, Edmonton

CASE REPORTS

Anthony S. Taylor, MD, University of Calgary, Calgary

SMALL URBAN AND RURAL ISSUES

James M. Thompson, MD, Dalhousie University, Charlottetown

METHODOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF EM

Riyad B. Abu-Laban, MD, MHSc, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

PHARMACOTHERAPY

Peter J. Zed, BSc(Pharm), PharmD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Jeff Eppler, MD, Kelowna General Hospital, Kelowna, BC

ED ADMINISTRATION

Jeremy M. Etherington, MD, St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver

EDUCATION

Tim Allen, MD, Université Laval, Quebec City

STATE OF THE ART (review articles and topical updates)

Laurie J. Morrison, MD, MSc, University of Toronto, Toronto

TOXICOLOGY

Roy Purssell, MD, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

CONTROVERSIES (issues and commentaries)

Jeffrey Freeman, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

PEDIATRIC EM

Bruce Minnes, MD, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Ran Goldman, MD, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

Niranjan Kissoon, MD, University of Florida HSC/Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Fla.

HUMOUR AND HUMANITY

Virginia Robinson, MD, Grand River Hospital, Kitchener, Ont.

DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE

Robert McGraw, MD, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

INTERNATIONAL EM

Garth Dickinson, MD, University of Ottawa, Ottawa

MEDICAL MYTHOLOGY

Mel Herbert, MD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

RESIDENT ISSUES

Jonathan Davidow, MD, University of Alberta, Edmonton

Cameron MacGougan, MD, University of Alberta, Edmonton

WEB SITE

Jim Squires, MD jsquires2504@rogers.com  
Guelph General Hospital, Guelph, Ont.

BUSINESS AND PROMOTION

Chris Evans, MD cevans@ualberta.ca  
University of Alberta, Edmonton

# CJEM JCMU

Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine  
Journal canadien de la médecine d'urgence

Vol. 5, No. 6, November / novembre 2003

## TABLE OF CONTENTS • TABLE DES MATIÈRES

### IN THIS ISSUE • DANS CE NUMÉRO

379

### LETTERS • COURRIER

380

Chest pain and panic disorder in the ED: one of the authors responds to Epstein's letter, *R. Fleet*. Epinephrine in digital blocks: refuting the refutation of dogma, *M. Moser*; Response, *P. Katis*. SARS, *J.M. Tallon*.

### EM ADVANCES • INNOVATIONS EN MU

Accuracy of clinical diagnosis versus the World Health Organization case definition in the Amoy Garden SARS cohort

*W.N. Wong, A.C.H. Sek, R.F.L. Lau, K.M. Li, J.K.S. Leung, M.L. Tse, A.H.W. Ng, R. Stenstrom*

384

### COMMENTARY • COMMENTAIRE

SARS: finding a deadly needle in the haystack  
*J. Thompson*

392

### PEDIATRIC EM • PÉDIATRIE D'URGENCE

What is the risk of bacterial meningitis in infants who present to the emergency department with fever and pyuria?

*R.D. Goldman, A. Matlow, L. Linett, D. Scolnik*

394

### EDUCATION • ÉDUCATION

Off-service residents in the emergency department: the need for learner-centredness

*A.J.E. Carter, W.A. McCauley*

400

### METHODOLOGY: THE SCIENCE OF EM • MÉTHODOLOGIE : SCIENCE DE LA MU

Systematic reviews in emergency medicine: Part II. Critical appraisal of review quality, data synthesis and result interpretation

*P.J. Zed, B.H. Rowe, P.S. Loewen, R.B. Abu-Laban*

406

### CJEM JOURNAL CLUB • CLUB DE LECTURE JCMU

Dexamethasone in acute bacterial meningitis  
*D. Nichols, V. Jordan*

412

### CASE REPORTS • OBSERVATIONS DE CAS

Benign pneumatosis intestinalis: a cause of massive pneumoperitoneum in the adult

*D.M. Liu, W.C. Torreggiani, K. Rowan, S. Nicolaou*

416

Acute allergic reaction due to the administration of fibrinolytic therapy for ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction: case report and discussion

*G.C. Mills, R.T. Arntfield, R.J. Sedran*

421

**EDITORIAL BOARD / CONSEIL DE RÉDACTION**

**Jeffrey R. Brubacher**, MD, Vancouver  
**Greta Cummings**, BScN, MEd, RN, PhD, Edmonton  
**Jason Frank**, MD, MA (Ed), Ottawa  
**Ran Goldman**, MD, Toronto  
**Robert McGraw**, MD, Kingston, Ont.  
**Shane Neilson**, BSc, MD, Halifax, NS  
**Marco Sivilotti**, MD, MSc, Kingston, Ont.  
**Christian Vaillancourt**, MD, MSc, Ottawa  
**Andrew Worster**, MD, MSc, Hamilton, Ont.

**TRANSLATION / TRADUCTION**

**Danielle Séguin-Tétreault**, MTRad

**MARKETING AND ADVERTISING SALES / MARKETING ET PUBLICITÉ**

**Keith Health Care** info@keithhealthcare.com  
Toronto: 905 278-6700 or 800 661-5004; fax 905 278-4850  
Montréal: 514 624-6979 or 877 761-0447; fax 514 624-6707

The *Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine (CJEM)* is owned by the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) and printed by Dolloco Printing, Ottawa.

**CAEP Head Office:** 1785 Alta Vista Dr., Ste. 104, Ottawa ON K1G 3Y6; tel 613 523-3343; fax 613 523-0190; cjem@caep.ca

**Editorial inquiries, submissions to CJEM, and all other correspondence:**

*Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine*  
c/o Dr. Grant Innes  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
St. Paul's Hospital, 1081 Burrard St.  
Vancouver BC V6Z 1Y6  
tel 604 806-8980, fax 604 608-9810, ginnes@interchange.ubc.ca

Instructions for Authors, Service Information: see Table of Contents. Address changes or requests for permission to reproduce items in *CJEM*: contact Susan Norrington at the CAEP Head Office.

Publications mail agreement no. 0344505499. Return undeliverable copies to the CAEP Head Office. USPS periodical postage paid at Champlain, NY, and additional locations. ISSN 1481-8035.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Canada Magazine Fund, toward our editorial costs.

© 2003 Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians  
Association canadienne des médecins d'urgence



All prescription drug advertisements have been cleared by the Pharmaceutical Advertising Advisory Board.

**PUBLISHER / ÉDITEUR**

*CJEM* is published every 2 months (January, March, May, July, September and November) for CAEP by the Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa. CAEP and the CMA assume no responsibility or liability for damages arising from any error or omission, or from the use of any information or advice contained in the journal, including articles, editorials, case reports, reviews, media reviews, letters and advertisements. All editorial matter in *CJEM* represents the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of CAEP or the CMA.

**ACTING DIRECTOR / DIRECTEUR PAR INTÉRIM, PUBLICATIONS**

**Lorne Ross**

**ACTING MANAGER, PUBLISHING SERVICES  
GESTIONNAIRE INTÉRIMAIRE, SERVICES D'ÉDITION**

**Glenda Proctor**, MSc, ELS

**EDITOR / RÉDACTRICE, PUBLICATIONS**

**Jennifer E. Raiche**  
800 663-7336 x2114; fax 613 565-2382; jennifer.raiche@cma.ca

**PRODUCTION**

**Kathryn A. Freamo  
Nicole Barbeau, Clara Walker**

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING / ANNONCES CLASSÉES**

**Beverley Kirkpatrick, Deborah Rodd, Tracy Huckabone**  
613 731-8610 x2127/2314; fax 613 565-7488; advertising@cma.ca

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING / ANNONCES PUBLICITAIRES**

**Nancy Pope**, 613 731-8610 x2111

**INTERNATIONAL EM • MU INTERNATIONALE**

High times at Kunde Hospital, Nepal  
*S. Pulfrey* 424

**ED ADMINISTRATION • L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA MU**

Conflict in the emergency department: Retreat in order to advance  
*J. Ahuja, P. Marshall* 429

**NEWS • NOUVELLES**

Obituary: Peter L. Lane, MD, FRCPC (1952–2003)  
*G. Dagnone, L. Fulton* 434

Abstract Submission, CAEP Annual Scientific Assembly,  
April 26–29, 2004: Call for abstracts. 435

Présentation de résumés de recherche, Assemblée scientifique  
annuelle de l'ACMU, du 26 au 29 avril 2004 : Appel de résumés  
de recherche. 436

**PEER REVIEWERS • RÉVISEURS** 437

**CJEM SUBJECT INDEX • INDEX DES SUJETS DU JCMU** 438

**CJEM AUTHOR INDEX • INDEX DES AUTEURS DU JCMU** 439

**SERVICE INFORMATION • SERVICES** 440

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING • ANNONCES CLASSÉES** 448

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS**

See September 2003 issue, page 367, or visit [www.caep.ca/cjem](http://www.caep.ca/cjem)

**INSTRUCTIONS POUR LES AUTEURS**

Voir le numéro de mai 2003 ou visitez [www.caep.ca/cjem](http://www.caep.ca/cjem)

**ADVERTISERS' INDEX  
INDEX DES ANNONCEURS**

**Abbott Laboratories, Limited**

Biaxin XL 442, 443, Outside Back Cover

**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

Cefzil Inside Front Cover, 441

**BIS Inc.**

Pie Medical 399

**Pfizer Canada Inc.**

Bextra 444, 445, Inside Back Cover

**Sanofi-Synthelabo**

Plavix 382, 383, 446, 447



**ABOUT THE COVER:**

Kunde Hospital, Nepal.  
February 2003

A quiet winter morning. The red benches  
are for waiting patients.

See page 424.

Photo: Simon Pulfrey