



# WEST INDIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

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**1 EDITORIAL**

**Domestic Violence: Its Prevalence and Profile**

CA Sewell, JS Martin, WD Abel

**ORIGINAL ARTICLES**

**3 Acute Toxicity and Diuretic Studies of the Roots of**

***Asparagus racemosus* Willd in Rats**

MC Satish Kumar, AL Udupa, K Sammodavardhana,  
UP Rathnakar, U Shvetha, GP Kodancha

*In this study for acute toxicity and diuretic activity of the roots of *Asparagus racemosus* Willd in rats, it is concluded that *Asparagus racemosus* has not shown any toxicity at a dose of 3200 mg/kg but at this dose showed significant diuretic activity.*

**7 The Jamaica Injury Surveillance System: A Profile of the Intentional and Unintentional Injuries in Jamaican Hospitals**

E Ward, T McCartney, S Arscott-Mills, N Gordon,  
A Grant, AH McDonald, DE Ashley

*Injuries in Jamaica are a major public health problem. Causes of unintentional injuries were falls, lacerations and blunt injuries. Motor vehicle related injuries were in motorcars, riding motorbikes/bicycles or as pedestrians. Violence-related injuries were mostly fights with acquaintances using sharp objects to inflict injury.*

**14 Seroprevalence of Toxoplasmosis, Leptospirosis and Brucellosis in Sugarcane Field-workers in Trinidad and Tobago**

A Adesiyun, S Rahaman, S Bissessar, S Dookeran,  
A Stewart-Johnson, M Gittens-St Hilaire

*The seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* (15.7%), *Leptospira* spp. (0.7%) and *Brucella abortus* (0.0%) was determined in sugarcane workers in Trinidad and Tobago but the risk factors studied did not significantly affect infection.*

**20 The Prevalence of Domestic Violence within Different Socio-economic Classes in Central Trinidad**

RP Nagassar, JM Rawlins, NR Sampson, J Zackeralli,  
K Chankadyal, C Ramasir, R Boodram

*Domestic violence was reported within all socio-economic class groupings but it was most prevalent within the working class and lower middle socio-economic classes. The major perceived cause of domestic violence was alcohol/drug abuse.*

**26 Trauma: The Burden of a Preventable Problem**

JM Plummer, H Brown, K Jones, D Fearon-Boothe,  
N Meeks-Aitken, AH McDonald

*Jamaica Trauma Registry data analysis shows that the majority of hospitalized patients were males suffering from penetrating trauma. Their care were largely state funded.*

**29 Small Babies on a Small Island: Survival of Very Low Birthweight Infants in Antigua and Barbuda 1986 to 2006**

TC Martin, J Howe, B Smart, P Hansen, L Lovell-Roberts, V Francis

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*Review of survival of all very low birthweight babies (VLBW, birthweight < 1500 g) admitted to the Special Care Nursery in Antigua between January 1986 and December 2006 was performed. Survival to discharge of all VLBW infants improved from 45% to 60%, with survival of those 1000 to 1499g improving from 60 to 83% and those < 1000g from 10 to 28%, comparing 1986–1992 to 2000–2006.*

#### 35 HTLV-1 Related Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour Patterns among Mothers who Participated in the Jamaica Breastfeeding Intervention Study (1996–2000)

CM Jones Cooper, K James, RJ Wilks

*There are deficiencies in the knowledge and practice of women at risk of contracting infection with HTLV-1. This study shows that knowledge may not be retained, therefore health education will need to be sustained.*

#### 41 What Does the Medical Student Know about Eye Donation/ Corneal Transplant?

##### The University of Nigeria Scenario

O Ike Okoye, FC Maduka-Okafor, BI Eze

*This is a cross-sectional descriptive survey of final year medical students of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, to determine their knowledge on eye donation and corneal transplant. Their knowledge was not satisfactory on some aspects of eye donation/ corneal transplant.*

#### 45 Students' Perception of the 'Educational Climate' at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Jamaica

RB Pierre, JM Branday, A Pottinger, A Wierenga

*The Dundee Education Environment Measure was self-administered in 2004 to undergraduate medical students in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, Jamaica. The students-centredness and friendliness of the educational environment needs to be optimized.*

#### 50 Client Characteristics Associated with Failure to Complete Residential Treatment at a Multicultural Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility in Antigua, West Indies

TC Martin, JA Josiah-Martin, T Sinnott

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*The clients (17%) who left early had a trend toward being female, not being from the Caribbean, and were significantly less likely to use alcohol, more likely to use opioids and more likely to use prescribed mental health medications. The Caribbean subset of clients leaving early had a trend toward being younger and having prior treatment. They were significantly more likely to be female, with fewer years of drug use, and were more likely to be taking prescribed mental health medications.*

**55 Pathology and Therapeutic Results in Patients with Intraosseous Ganglia of the Carpal Bone**

K Takase

*The pathology in the patients with intraosseous ganglia of the carpal bone was intra- or extraosseous development but most cases were localized in the proximal carpal row.*

**59 Supporting Cancer Patients in Jamaica – A Needs Assessment Survey**

D Spence, R Crath, A Hibbert, K Phillips-Jackson, A Barillas, T Castagnier, H Ghul, M Lambda, K Stemeroff, N Webley

*A needs assessment study of cancer patients, their caregivers and allied health professionals was undertaken in Jamaica to identify what modifications to delivery of current formal and informal services at governmental, institutional and community levels would effectively address unmet needs.*

**67 Red Cell Transfusion Practices and the Impact of Phlebotomy in an Adult Intensive Care Unit in Trinidad – A Prospective Observational Study**

N Bedayse, S Hariharan, D Chen

*Red cell transfusion in critically ill patients has long been an area of controversy. This article reports the pattern of current red cell transfusion practices in an adult intensive care unit (ICU) in Trinidad and the impact of daily phlebotomy on transfusions.*

**73 Pharmacovigilance Healthcare Professionals' Role in Benefits versus Harm Analysis of Drugs Use**

M Gossell-Williams

*It is the responsibility of all healthcare professionals to participate in 'pharmacovigilance'. This review aims to sensitize Caribbean healthcare professionals to what is Pharmacovigilance and how their active involvement is imperative to the benefit versus harm evaluation of drugs.*

**SPECIAL ARTICLE**

**76 An Intense Influenza Pandemic – Possible Subtype of H5N1: Its Implications for Jamaica**

D RamjeeSingh, AS Wright, H McDavid

*The study seeks to quantify the possible economic impact in terms of loss in work hours, death and hospitalization rates and cost to the economy if there were to be an outbreak of some strain of the H5N1 virus which is considered to be highly pathogenic and extremely lethal.*

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