



This Issue in the Journal

Adults' perceptions of the causes and primary prevention of common fatal cancers in New Zealand

A Reeder, J Trevena

We assessed population perceptions of the causes and prevention of common fatal cancers. Among women, breast, cervical and lung cancer were most salient; among men, prostate, lung and bowel cancer – partially congruent with population statistics. There was high awareness that tobacco smoke and sun exposure increase lung and skin cancer risk, respectively, but less awareness of other protective strategies. Prevention efforts should reflect the known risks and potential for gain, with public policies that create supportive environments for healthy behaviours.

Equestrian injuries in New Zealand, 1993–2001: knowledge and experience

G Northey

Participating in an activity that includes one member who is over 500 kg, moves at speeds up to 65 kph and elevates the rider up to 3 m above the ground, can be a risk in itself. Evidence shows that rates of death and injury associated with horse-related activities can vary depending on factors such as age, sex, knowledge and experience, helmet use, environmental factors, and the temperament of the horse. This study was undertaken to review the literature on equestrian injuries in New Zealand and explore a range of preventive countermeasures.

A comparative study of drug utilisation at different levels of the primary healthcare system in Kaski district, Western Nepal

R Shankar, P Kumar, M Rana, A Dubey, N Shenoy

The Nepalese primary healthcare system operates at three levels: primary health centre (PHC), health post (HP) and sub-health post (SHP). The present study was carried out in one PHC, one HP and two SHPs in the Kaski district, Western Nepal. Average number of drugs per prescription was higher at the PHC. The average cost of drugs per prescription and percentage of prescriptions containing antibiotics and injections were higher at the PHC level. Defined daily dose (DDD) of drugs varied.

Pre-hospital antibiotic treatment of meningococcal disease: scope for improvement

T Riddell, C Bullen

The focus of this research was to determine the extent to which Auckland general practitioners (GPs) follow guidelines recommending that they give antibiotics to patients with suspected meningococcal disease prior to sending them into hospital. This study found that only one third of eligible patients received pre-hospital

treatment by their attending GP. This research highlights the need for GPs to give antibiotics more often than they do at present when confronted with a patient they suspect as having meningococcal disease.