

Dear friends of clinical journal club - load the file down at <https://www.mdc-berlin.de/cjc>. This website also gives you access to my seminar on Wednesdays 16:00 English and 17:00 German. You need to click on *Besprechung beizutreten*. If it fails to work immediately, keep on clicking.

A 40-year-old man presented with a 2-day history of a burning rash on both hands. Physical examination was notable for a confluent region of erythema extending from the dorsal aspect of the thumbs to the medial aspect of the second finger. Scattered patches of erythema were observed on the knuckles and other fingers, and a small blister was noted on the base of the left thumb. What is the most likely diagnosis? You are offered: Atopic dermatitis, Hand, foot, and mouth disease, Irritant contact dermatitis, Phytophotodermatitis and Porphyria cutanea tarda. We discuss the options.

Genomic sequencing technology allows for identification of reproductive couples with an increased chance, as compared with that in the general population, of having a child with an autosomal recessive or X-linked genetic condition. In Australia, investigators studied the feasibility, acceptability, and outcomes of a nationwide, couple-based genetic carrier screening program in Australia as part of the "Mackenzie's Mission" project. Health care providers offered screening to persons before pregnancy or early in pregnancy. The results obtained from testing at least 1281 genes were provided to the reproductive couples. We aimed to ascertain the psychosocial effects on participants, the acceptability of screening to all participants, and the reproductive choices of persons identified as having an increased chance of having a child with a condition for which the investigators screened. Half the approached couples (>10,000) agreed to participate. Findings occurred in about 4%, half of which were already known. Thus, couple-based reproductive genetic carrier screening was largely acceptable to participants and was used to inform reproductive decision making. The delivery of screening to a diverse and geographically dispersed population was feasible. The effect of embolization of the middle meningeal artery in patients with subacute or chronic subdural hematoma is uncertain. Investigators performed a multicenter, open-label, randomized trial in China, involving patients with symptomatic nonacute subdural hematoma with mass effect. Patients were assigned to undergo burr-hole drainage or receive nonsurgical treatment at the surgeon's discretion, and patients in each group were then randomly assigned, in a 1:1 ratio, to

undergo middle meningeal artery embolization with liquid embolic material or to receive usual care. The primary outcome was symptomatic recurrence or progression of subdural hematoma within 90 days after randomization. The outcome was about the same, but middle-meningeal ligation reduced serious adverse events. Currently licensed and approved malaria subunit vaccines provide modest, short-lived protection against malaria. Immunization with live-attenuated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria parasites is an alternative vaccination strategy that has potential to improve protection. Investigators conducted a double-blind, controlled clinical trial to evaluate the safety, side-effect profile, and efficacy of immunization, by means of mosquito bites, with a second-generation genetically attenuated parasite (GA2) — a *mei2* single knockout *P. falciparum* NF54 parasite (sporozoite form) with extended development into the liver stage. The GA2 attenuated parasite vaccine had an efficacy of 89%, quite a bit better than earlier malarial vaccines. *N Engl J Med* presents a special article on flooding related to climate change. The *N Engl J Med* review is on a new form of candida infection, *Candida auris*. Echinocandins are required for eradication. The weekly patient suffers from trichotillomania. In the *Lancet*, we learn that check-point inhibition with pembrolizumab improves outcomes in patients with soft-tissue sarcomas. Next, in a randomized trial patients with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer were randomized to prostate radiotherapy to test efficacy and safety. Safety was demonstrated with some efficacy. In a Global Burden of Disease study, the world-wide trends in diabetes (fasting blood sugars and HbA1C) are shown between 1990 to 2022. The prevalence in men and women has increased to about 15%; low and middle-income countries lag behind rich countries in providing treatments. Sir George Still founded pediatrics in the UK and described Still's disease. We inspect a dramatic case in an adult patient. Two *Lancet* Commissions present arguments about early childhood development and the "Next 1000 Days", the cost of non-investing. The arguments are most laudable; however, action in today's world remains elusive. Drinking water worldwide, and swimming pool water is routinely treated with chloramine ( $\text{NH}_2\text{Cl}$ ) disinfectants, a treatment that has markedly reduced water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever. All metabolites of  $\text{NH}_2\text{Cl}$  are known except for one elusive metabolite called the "unknown product". In a *Science Magazine* article, we learn that the "unknown product" has now been elucidated as chloronitramide, a rather

aggressive looking metabolite. Is chloronitramide dangerous? Perhaps Robert F. Kennedy Jr. can address that question. I am happy to announce that drinking water here in Berlin is so pure that it requires no chloramine additives. Join me on Wednesday, Nov 20 for another stunning clinical journal club, 16:00 in English and 17:00 in German.

Sincerely, Fred Luft

[Friedrich.luft@charite.de](mailto:Friedrich.luft@charite.de)

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