

# Other journals in brief

A selection of abstracts of clinically relevant papers from other journals.

The abstracts on this page have been chosen and edited by John R. Radford.

## CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

### Dire necessity and transformation: entry-points for modern science in Islamic bioethical assessment of porcine products in vaccines

Padela AI, Furber SW *et al.* *Bioethics*; DOI: 10.1111/bioe.12016

#### An appreciation of *istihala* and *darurah*.

Pig products are used in dentistry; Saliva Orthana (A.S. Pharma) is helpful for some with xerostomia and Mucograft® (Osteohealth®), that comprises pure porcine collagen, may have a role in selected surgical procedures. Although the focus of this paper is the 'permissibility' or otherwise of vaccines that contain porcine-derived components, the Islamic ethical and legal principles that underlie such use are discussed. At the centre of these is *istihala*, 'changing the impermissible to the permissible through transformation'. An example of this is the changing of wine into vinegar. If the pig product is altered during manufacture, *istihala* can apply. However, this direction is not consistent across all learned schools. Notwithstanding the tenet of *istihala*, any prohibition of an 'impermissible' product would fall away if *darurah* (*pl. darurat*) can be met – the action is 'permissible' if it preserves life.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.710

## 'MEDICALIZING' THE 'HUMAN CONDITION ITSELF'

### Community based study of sleep bruxism during early childhood

Insana SP, Gozal D *et al.* *Sleep Med* 2013; 14: 183–188

#### It is reported in children, that as the frequency of sleep bruxism increased, so did health problems.

These investigators then suggest that sleep bruxism may serve as a 'sentinel marker' for early intervention in order to prevent 'anxious, depressed withdrawn and somatic complaints.' Could the editorial (*J Ment Health* 2010; 19: 301–304) that explored issues raised by the now recently published DSM-5 (US authority on psychiatric disorders) not offer insight into the above vacuous claim? In this editorial, the authors caution against 'medicalizing' the 'human condition itself'. This retrospective study used data obtained from parental questionnaires obtained from almost five thousand children living in Kentucky. Neurocognitive performance was also assessed. Almost half the children carried out sleep bruxism with a higher prevalence in white than African American children.

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## E-CIGARETTES

### BMA calls for stronger regulation of e-cigarettes

A briefing from the Board of Science and the Occupational Medicine Committee ([http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/Working%20for%20change/Improving%20health/tobaccoecigarettespublicplaces\\_jan2013.pdf](http://bma.org.uk/-/media/Files/PDFs/Working%20for%20change/Improving%20health/tobaccoecigarettespublicplaces_jan2013.pdf))

#### It has yet to be shown that 'passive vaping' is harmless.

They are brazenly puffed on trains and even within hospital boundaries. E-cigarettes (vapes) are not regulated, although it has recently been announced that from 2016 they will be so by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). 'NICE will then look again at the use of e-cigarettes'. An e-cigarette consists of a cartridge containing liquid nicotine, a heating element and rechargeable battery. In this briefing paper, it is stated 'there is no peer-reviewed evidence that they (e-cigarettes) are safe or effective...'. In addition, studies have reported that they are used by those who are less motivated to quit smoking and where smoking is banned. Then there is the issue of 'passive vaping'; anabasine, myosmine, and  $\beta$ -nicotyrine, all putative harmful chemicals, and in half the products the carcinogen nitrosamine, have been identified.

DOI: 10.1038/sj.bdj.2013.712

## 'SLEEP DENTAL MEDICINE'

### Sleep less and bite more: sleep disorders associated with occlusal loads during sleep

Kato T, Yamaguchi T *et al.* *J Prosthodont Res* 2013; 57: 69–81

#### Sleep bruxism would appear to be more prevalent in the young in contrast to snoring and other sleep disorders that affect the elderly.

This is a comprehensive albeit dull review. It is suggested that the use of portable electromyography can diagnose more objectively those with sleep bruxism. Polysomnography, a tool of the sleep physician, can be employed together with electromyography. The authors state that dentists have an important role in diagnosing those with obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSAS or OSA) and in providing bimaxillary oral appliances for patients with 'primary snoring or mild to moderate OSAS.' Nevertheless, the use of these appliances is contentious. For example, some dentists urge edentulous patients with OSAS to wear their dentures at night. Yet such can increase apnoeic episodes. The authors suggest that there is now a synergy between dentistry and sleep medicine under the umbrella of the new discipline of 'sleep dental medicine'.

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