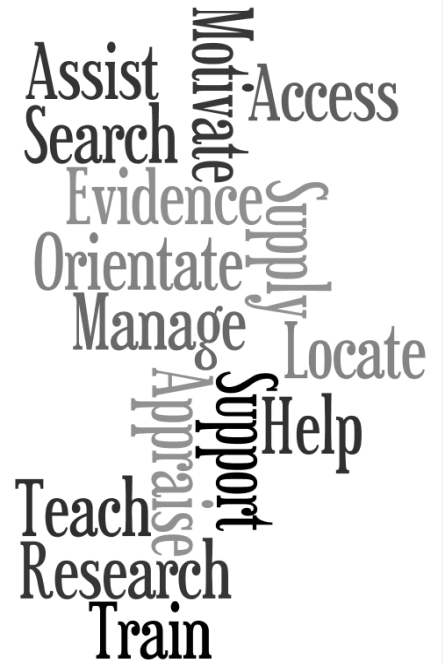




# HNE HEALTH LIBRARIES

linking evidence with practice



## Library Lore

The newsletter of [HNE Health Libraries](#)  
Vol 16(6) June 2020

### REVIEW: EXPLORING THE EVIDENCE-PRACTICE GAP IN THE USE OF PLAIN RADIOGRAPHY FOR ACUTE ABDOMINAL PAIN and INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION

Previous studies have recommended that the use of plain abdominal radiography should be curbed, particularly with the growth of more accurate imaging modalities. However, evidence from referral data suggests that plain abdominal radiography continues to be a commonly requested examination. The aim of this review was to explore the gap between evidence and practice by re-examining the evidence using a robust methodology, investigating the diagnostic accuracy of plain abdominal radiography.

HNE IMAGING, MANNING HOSPITAL, TAREE

The results suggest that use of plain abdominal radiography could be substantially reduced, particularly for patients with undifferentiated acute abdominal pain. While some guidelines exist, there is sound argument for clinical decision rules for abdominal imaging to inform evidence-based clinical decision-making and radiology referrals.

SOURCE: Gary Denham, Tony Smith, Daphne James, Sharmaine McKiernan and Tiffany-Jane Evans (2020) Exploring the evidence-practice gap in the use of plain radiography for acute abdominal pain and intestinal obstruction: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [International journal of evidence-based healthcare](#), 18(2), 159-169  
*Available via CIAP*



### JUNE is BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Bowel cancer is the second most common type of newly diagnosed cancer in Australia affecting both men and women almost equally and is Australia's second biggest cancer killer after lung cancer. It is also one of the most curable types of cancer if found early.

[SAVING LIVES THROUGH EARLY DETECTION](#)

### AIHW DATA: CANCER in AUSTRALIA

In 2020, it is estimated there will be just under 150,000 new cases of cancer diagnosed and just under 50,000 deaths from cancer. [This AIHW report](#) presents cancer incidence, mortality, survival, risk and prevalence statistics using data from 1982 to 2016 (2018 for mortality) and projections up to 2020 for cancer incidence and mortality.

Since 2000, colorectal cancer incidence rates have decreased more than any other cancer

### DON'T FORGET OUR ONLINE RESOURCES

We hope you're familiar with many of the specialist resources provided by HNE Health Libraries, such as ACCESSSS Smart Search, TRIP or MIMs... But did you know you can access [a wealth of other online resources](#) via the Library website?



**Stockley's Drug Interactions** is an international source of drug interaction information. Based on published clinical papers and reports, it provides concise monographs designed for quick reference. Each monograph contains a summary, clinical evidence for the interaction under discussion, its probable mechanism, clinical importance, and management. There is also an option to search 'food, drink and smoking' interactions.

**Onsite access only**

Have you tried ALL of the online resources provided by HNE Health Libraries? Find them on the [library website](#) under 'Quick Links'.

You will need a current HNE Health Libraries' USERNAME / PASSWORD to access online resources.

Username = Membership No.  
[But I can't remember them!](#)

If you're not yet a library member?  
[Fill in the online form](#) or visit your [local HNE Health Library](#).

## RACISM and MEDICINE

The [BMJ recently published a special issue on racism in the UK health system](#). Topics discussed include: [prejudice in employment and career progression for doctors](#), and [racism in medical education](#). "Doctors from minority backgrounds are more likely to face complaints, more likely to have those complaints investigated, and may face harsher sanctions after investigation. They are paid less, and are more likely to experience bullying and harassment at work." The issue maps some of the injustices faced by ethnic minority doctors and patients in the NHS, and asks how they might be overcome. Similar problems exist in Australia:

AIDA (2017) [Racism in Australia's health system – policy statement](#)

Szubert, A. et al. (2018) [Mistreatment in Australian medical education: a student-led scoping of experiences](#). *Australian medical student journal*, 8(2)

Lai, G. et al. (2018) [Factors affecting the retention of Indigenous Australians in the health workforce: a systematic review](#). *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 15(5): 914

Taylor, E. et al. (2019) [Beyond enrolments: a systematic review exploring the factors affecting the retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students in the tertiary education system](#). *International journal for equity in health*, 18(1): 136

beyondblue (2019 updated) [National Mental Health Survey of Doctors and Medical Students](#)

ABC News (2018) ['I was told I couldn't do it because I was Aboriginal': Erika Chapman-Burgess's journey to becoming a doctor](#)

### REVIEW: PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS for PEOPLE with PSYCHOTIC EXPERIENCES

Many people with psychotic experiences do not develop psychotic disorders, yet those who seek help demonstrate high clinical complexity and poor outcomes. This systematic review and meta-analysis, evaluated the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of psychological interventions for people with psychotic experiences. In general, there was no strong evidence for the superiority of any one intervention. Individual reports indicated that cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, sleep cognitive behavioural therapy, systemic therapy, cognitive remediation therapy, and supportive treatments improved at least one clinical or functional outcome. Four reports included economic evaluations, which suggested cognitive behavioural therapy may be cost-effective compared with treatment as usual.

SOURCE: Sonesson, E. et al. (2020) [Psychological interventions for people with psychotic experiences: a systematic review and meta-analysis of controlled and uncontrolled effectiveness and economic studies](#). *Australian & New Zealand journal of psychiatry*, published online May 28. doi: 10.1177/0004867420913118

You may need a current HNE Health Libraries **username/password** to access BMJ online resources.

Username = Membership No.  
[I can't remember either of them!](#)

If you're not yet a library member?  
[Fill in the online form](#) or visit your [local HNE Health Library](#).

### THE WELL-BEING of MEDICAL STUDENTS: BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH

Mental health problems among medical students have been widely reported, but the predisposing and perpetuating factors and biological concomitants are poorly understood. The authors of this recent Australian study adopted a biopsychosocial approach, focusing on sleep, autonomic and immune mechanisms, as well as mental, social and physical well-being, health-related behaviours, and daily functioning in a group of fourth year Australian medical students (n=151).

SOURCE: Vollmer-Conna, U. et al.

(2020) [The well-being of medical students: a biopsychosocial approach](#). *Australian & New Zealand journal of psychiatry*, published online May 23. doi: 10.1177/0004867420924086



## GREY LITERATURE RESOURCES

**CADTH** COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that aims to deliver evidence, analysis, and recommendations to health care decision-makers. CADTH's Research Information Services team has compiled a [COVID-19 grey literature resource list](#), to highlight freely accessible evidence-based sources of grey literature on COVID-19. Grey literature includes government information and reports that are not published commercially and that may be inaccessible via bibliographic databases. The list prioritizes high-quality rapid knowledge syntheses.

### COVID-19: IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE LOW COST PHYSICAL DISTANCING and ENHANCED HYGIENE

The maintenance of sustainable low cost physical distancing and enhanced hygiene may decrease the number and severity of cases.

#### LOCAL RESEARCH

SOURCE: Craig Dalton, Stephen Corbett and Anthea Katelaris (2020) [COVID-19: implementing sustainable low cost physical distancing and enhanced hygiene](#). *MJA*, published online May 1. doi: 10.5694/mja2.50602

### COVID-19: a LIVING SYSTEMATIC MAP of the EVIDENCE

The EPPI-Centre (UCL, UK) has created an [evidence map](#) – updated weekly – with the aim of informing policy and practice. It is partitioned into broad domains for easy exploration.



### ASSISTANCE with a SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

If you're interested in finding out more about systematic reviews, the Library service holds many titles, including [An introduction to systematic reviews](#) (EPPI-Centre authors).

"The book offers step-by-step advice on the logic and processes of systematic reviewing. It will help both students and researchers to turn systematic reviews into recommendations for policy and practice." [Find more titles...](#)

HNE Health Library staff can support you or your team in all aspects of the evidence synthesis review process. [Contact us now...](#)

## DOWN ON THE BODY FARM: UNLOCKING FORENSIC SECRETS

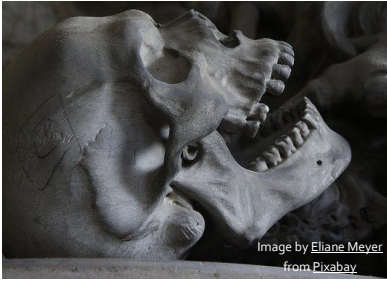


Image by Eliane Meyer  
from Pixabay

Researchers at outdoor “body farms” in the US look to microbes of human decay to help [identify corpses and pinpoint time of death](#). The distinct climatic, ecological and geological variation that we experience in Australia meant we needed a local facility. Known as AFTER ([Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research](#)), it represents a multidisciplinary collaboration between academic, police and forensic agencies, who have members regularly involved in death investigations. The facility relies on the donation of willed bodies.



### ADF: DRUG INFO

DrugInfo, from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, helps thousands of Australians every year by listening, providing the facts and sharing contact details for counselling, treatment and support services. It's free and confidential. [Find out more...](#)

### REPORT: CHRONIC PAIN IN AUSTRALIA

Chronic pain is a common and complex condition characterised by persistent pain experienced on most days of the week. It affects 1 in 5 Australians aged 45 and over.

Almost 1 in 5 (1.6 million) Australians aged 45 and over had chronic pain in 2016

[New analysis from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) (AIHW) shows that compared with people without pain, people with chronic pain are more likely to:

- be female and older
- have long-term conditions
- stay longer in hospital
- report limitations to daily activities

## PREPRINTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES, BUILDING TRUST

Preprints have been getting a lot of attention lately. The COVID-19 pandemic—the first major health crisis since medical and biomedical preprints have become widely available online—has further underscored the importance of speedy dissemination of research outcomes. Preprints allow researchers to share results with speed, but raise questions about accuracy, misconduct, and our reliance on the “self-correcting” nature of the scientific enterprise. As scientists and health care professionals, as well as the general public, look for information about the pandemic, preprint services are growing in importance. So too are the policy decisions preprint platform leaders make. [This issue brief provides an overview of the preprint landscape in the first half of 2020](#) as we witness rapid changes to how they are perceived and utilised.



### CRITICAL LESSONS FROM THE RETRACTION OF TWO COVID-19 PAPERS

Two leading medical journals have retracted papers concerning the effect of drug treatments on the clinical course of patients with COVID-19. [The Lancet retracted a paper](#) that reported that [hydroxychloroquine use was accompanied by an increased risk of death](#). And the [NEJM retracted](#) an earlier paper that reported that the use of [inhibitors of the renin-angiotensin system was not accompanied](#) by an increased risk of death in patients with COVID-19. The two retracted papers were published by many of the same authors, and both appeared to rely on the work of Sapan Desai, whose analytics company Surgisphere claimed to have assembled impressively large and detailed databases that included real-time medical records from hundreds of hospitals around the globe.

[Read full article...](#)

[Read more about the retractions in Nature...](#)

Unfortunately these are not the only papers of concern, Retraction Watch keeps a [running track of COVID-19 paper retractions](#).

### ONLINE SYMPTOM CHECKERS: STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

Online and mobile application symptom checkers get the diagnosis right first time in just a third of instances, but the only Australian-based checker included in a recent study – Healthdirect – did slightly better than the rest.

[Read more in MJA insightplus...](#)

### COVID-19 CLINICAL TRIALS

At present there is no known effective treatment for COVID-19. This preprint summary focuses on currently registered randomised trials that are most likely to influence clinical practice. The trials have been broken into categories: 1) prophylaxis; 2) treatment of outpatients with mild COVID-19; 3) treatment of hospitalised patients with moderate COVID-19; and 4) treatment of critically ill patients with COVID-19.

#### LOCAL RESEARCH

There are many current candidate drugs in pre-clinical and early phase development, and these form a pipeline for future large clinical trials if current candidate therapies prove ineffective or unsafe.

SOURCE: Joshua Davis, David Ferreira, Justin Denholm and Steven Tong (2020) [Clinical trials for the prevention and treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): the current state of play](#). MJA, published online 27 Apr.

### THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials largely fall into two groups: [observational studies](#), where researchers follow a group of people to see what happens to them; and [experimental studies](#), where people are assigned to treatments, then followed.

These study designs have come about from centuries of people trying out different ways of treating people. [This article from the Conversation](#) explains key terms and describes significant moments in the history of clinical trials – from ginseng to rhubarb, beriberi and TB.





## [CRAZY SOCKS 4 DOCS DAY](#)

On 5<sup>th</sup> June, HNE Health staff donned their craziest socks to raise awareness of health and wellbeing, particularly mental health, for everyone working in health care. The John Hunter branch of HNE Health Libraries was not as quiet as usual. Staff were encouraged to grab a bite to eat, and enjoy the work of this talented musical duo, while having an informal conversation about caring for themselves and each other.



Have a look at the [JMO Wellbeing Guide](#) on CIAP for more resources.



OFFSITE ACCESS  
CHANGES  
from 1st JULY

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, offsite access to CIAP will change to NSW Health Single Sign-On, meaning staff will have to use their StaffLink log-on details to access CIAP offsite. Access to CIAP from a NSW Health hospital or health service will not change. [Find out more about the changes...](#)

### RECENT ARTICLES

Fink, H. et al. (2020) [Diagnosis and treatment of clinical Alzheimer's-type dementia: a systematic review](#). Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); Report No.: 20-EHC003

Vounzoulaki, E. et al. (2020) [Progression to type 2 diabetes in women with a known history of gestational diabetes: systematic review and meta-analysis](#). *BMJ*, 369: m1361

**LOCAL RESEARCH:** Veerati, P. et al. (2020) [Airway epithelial cell immunity is delayed during rhinovirus infection in asthma and COPD](#). *Frontiers in Immunology*, published online May 15. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2020.00974

Babulal, G. et al. (2020) [A systematic review examining associations between cardiovascular conditions and driving outcomes among older drivers](#). *Geriatrics* (Basel, Switzerland), 5(2), E27.

Deyle, G. et al. (2020) [Physical therapy versus glucocorticoid injection for osteoarthritis of the knee](#). *NEJM*, 382(15), 1420-1429

Hope, C. et al. (2020) [Systematic review: the effect of right hemicolectomy for cancer on postoperative bowel function](#). *Supportive care in cancer*, published online May 20. doi:10.1007/s00520-020-05519-5

### CIAP EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE WORKSHOP (ONLINE)

CIAP is hosting [a full-day online workshop](#) on Tuesday 30th June. FREE to all NSW Health staff, it will focus on using CIAP resources to support evidence-based practice including using databases and critically evaluating literature. [Register now...](#)

A full-day workshop is scheduled for Tuesday 21st July at HMRI (John Hunter Hospital campus). But this will be

dependent on COVID restrictions. For more information contact CIAP on 1800 824 279. [See full list of CIAP training events...](#)



### AUSTRALIA: AN ISLAND IN A SEA OF MEASLES

Globally, there has been a massive resurgence of measles with over 360,000 cases reported to WHO between Jan-Jul 2019 (almost three times the number reported over the same period for 2018). Australia had 285 confirmed measles cases - the highest number reported since 2014. Most infections occurred in, or were secondary to, unimmunised or under-immunised individuals returning from countries where measles is endemic or that have active outbreaks. Combatting the resurgence of measles requires vigilant clinicians and sustained, high level vaccination coverage

#### LOCAL RESEARCH

SOURCE: Kirsten Williamson, Tony Merritt and David Durrheim (2020) [Australia: an island in a sea of measles](#). *MJA*, published online Jun 15. doi: 10.5694/mja2.50650



HNE HEALTH  
LIBRARIES  
linking evidence with practice

### [HNE HEALTH LIBRARIES CAN...](#)

- Help you ask the right questions
- Assist you in selecting the right sources of evidence
- Teach you how to effectively use a range of databases and other evidence-based resources
- Assist you to identify and critically appraise evidence

CHECK [OPENING HOURS](#)

SEARCH [THE CATALOGUE](#)

RENEW [YOUR LOANS](#)

RECENT [HNE HEALTH PUBLICATIONS](#)

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