

On the cover

You know you have made it as a rock band or artist if you appear “on the cover of the *Rolling Stone*.” Well, now you know you have arrived as a family physician if you grace the cover of *Canadian Family Physician*.

This was a brilliant idea. It gives us a chance to “meet” and learn about our family physician colleagues across Canada when we would not otherwise have a chance to do so. This adds to an already excellent medical journal. Please keep up this new tradition, and we all thank you for your hard work in producing *Canadian Family Physician*. Rock on!

—Guy Robert Blais MD CCFP FCFP
Edmonton, Alta

Competing interests
None declared

World Health Organization position on breastfeeding

We read the article “Breastfeeding and maternal diet in atopic dermatitis,”¹ published in the December 2011 issue of *Canadian Family Physician*. We wish to point out a factual error in the article.

Under the heading of “Breastfeeding,” the authors wrote that “The World Health Organization currently recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and continuing to breastfeed, as well as introducing other foods, until 2 years of age.”¹ The World Health Organization recommends “exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months and ... the timely introduction of adequate and safe complementary foods with continued breastfeeding up to two years or beyond.”²

—M. Shirley Gross MDCM CCFP
—Angela Berg MD CCFP
Edmonton, Alta

Competing interests
None declared

References

- Lien TY, Goldman RD. Breastfeeding and maternal diet in atopic dermatitis. *Can Fam Physician* 2011;57:1403-5.
- World Health Organization [website]. *Global strategy for infant and young child feeding*. Geneva, Switz: World Health Organization; 2003. Available from: www.who.int/nutrition/topics/global_strategy/en/index.html. Accessed 2012 Jan 25.

Screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm

The Preventive Care Checklist Form[®] update by Duerksen et al in the January 2012 issue¹ is an excellent summary of preventive care that would be useful for any family physician. One cannot help but notice the paucity of evidence behind many of the actions undertaken at the annual health checkup.

An area of preventive medicine that is often overlooked is the screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms

(AAAs). The evidence behind 1-time AAA screening for select populations (eg, male smokers aged 65 to 75 years) is equivalent to, if not better than, the evidence behind many of the strongest recommendations in this form. Consequently, select AAA screening has been supported by the US Preventive Services Task Force,² the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery,³ and the Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee.⁴ Despite being cost effective and potentially lifesaving, the 1-time ultrasound has not been adopted for routine screening by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care—possibly because the last position statement was published in 1991.⁵

It might be prudent to include a reminder for selective AAA screening in the next version of the Preventive Care Checklist Form.

—Mitch Vainberg MD
Toronto, Ont

Competing interests
None declared

References

- Duerksen A, Dubey V, Iglar K. Annual adult health checkup. Update on the Preventive Care Checklist Form[®]. *Can Fam Physician* 2012;58:43-7(Eng),e15-20(Fr).
- US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm: recommendation statement. *Ann Intern Med* 2005;142(3):198-202.
- Mastracci TM, Cinà CS; Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. Screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm in Canada: review and position statement of the Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery. *J Vasc Surg* 2007;45(6):1268-76, 1276.e1-5.
- Medical Advisory Secretariat. Ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm: an evidence-based analysis. *Ontario Health Technology Assessment Series* 2006;6(2). Available from: www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/reviews/pdf/rev_usaaa_010106.pdf. Accessed 2012 Feb 7.
- Periodic health examination, 1991 update: 5. Screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm. Canadian Task Force on the Periodic Health Examination. *CMAJ* 1991;145(7):783-9.

Make your views known!

To comment on a particular article, open the article at www.cfp.ca and click on the Rapid Responses link on the right-hand side of the page. Rapid Responses are usually published online within 1 to 3 days and might be selected for publication in the next print edition of the journal. To submit a letter not related to a specific article published in the journal, please e-mail letters.editor@cfpc.ca.

The top 5 articles read online at cfp.ca

- Clinical Review:** Zopiclone. *Is it a pharmacologic agent for abuse?* (December 2007)
- Case Report:** Chronic vulvar irritation: could toilet paper be the culprit? (April 2010)
- Practice:** Annual adult health checkup: *Update on the Preventive Care Checklist Form[®]* (January 2012)
- Motherisk Update:** Exposure to fifth disease in pregnancy (December 2009)
- Clinical Review:** Treatment and prevention of herpes labialis (December 2008)