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Great BCMJ covers

I feel like a fine art collector every time my *BCMJ* arrives. The quality of the covers is second to none, often profound, usually colorful, and always stimulating. Thank you *BCMJ* and Jerry Wong in particular for sharing your wonderful work.

—Steve Ashwell, MD
Dawson Creek

Re: Patient consent

I read with interest the recent letter to the editor by the listeriosis patient, the response from the authors, and the editorial note.¹

There was an apology regarding patient consent for publication from

the editor-in-chief of a different journal 10 years ago.^{2,3}

It is a good idea to have in place a written consent from a patient whose case history is being published. However, caution should be exercised for too strict a guideline.

The author reported a case of Munchausen's syndrome presenting as prevarication anaphylaxis.⁴ This report and other interesting cases from our psychiatry colleagues may not be published if the guideline on patient consent for publication is strictly followed.

—H.C. George Wong, MD
Vancouver

References

1. Tetu M. Listeriosis patient speaks out. *BCMJ* 2008;50:492.

2. Hoey J. Patient consent for publication—an apology. *CMAJ* 1998;159:503-504.
3. Wong HCG. Signed consent for publication. *CMAJ* 1999;160:315.
4. Wong HCG. Munchausen's syndrome presenting as prevarication anaphylaxis. *Can J Allergy Clin Immunol* 1999;4:299-300.

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1. Infanrix-hexa product monograph, Glaxo-SmithKline Inc, 2008. www.gsk.ca/english/html/our-products/vaccines-canada.html (accessed 15 Dec 2008).
2. Statement on the recommended use of pentavalent and hexavalent vaccines. *Canada Communicable Disease Report*, 1 February 2007, Volume 33 (ACS-1): 1-16, and associated literature review by Gilca V, Duval B posted at same site. www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/index-eng.php (accessed 15 Dec 2008).
3. Provincial and Territorial Immunization Programs, Routine Schedules for Infants and Children, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2007. www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/ptimprog-progimpt/index-eng.php (accessed 15 Dec 2008).