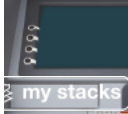

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### FEATURED ARTICLE



#### Cannabis is worse for lung health than tobacco

Cannabis is associated with more respiratory symptoms than tobacco alone, and cannabis use is also associated with a higher prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, according to [Research](#) by Professor Roy Robertson *et al* at the University of Edinburgh. With over 2 million

people in the UK smoking cannabis in the last year — many of whom consider the drug to be harmless — health education messages need to highlight the adverse respiratory effects of cannabis in a similar way to tobacco messaging.



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## LATEST RESEARCH

## Cannabis, tobacco smoking, and lung function: a cross-sectional observational study in a general practice population

John Macleod, Roy Robertson, Lorraine Copeland, James McKenzie, Rob Elton, and Peter Reid  
Br J Gen Pract 2015 Feb; 65 (631): e89 -e95 . <http://dx.doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X683521>

## Quantifying the risk of multiple myeloma from symptoms reported in primary care patients: a large case-control study using electronic records

Elizabeth A Shephard, Richard D Neal, Peter Rose, Fiona M Walter, Emma J Litt, and William T Hamilton  
Br J Gen Pract 2015 Feb; 65 (631): e106 -e113 . <http://dx.doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X683545>

## Explaining the variation between practices in the duration of new antidepressant treatment: a database cohort study in primary care

Christopher Burton, Isobel Cameron, and Niall Anderson  
Br J Gen Pract 2015 Feb; 65 (631): e114 -e120 . <http://dx.doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X683557>

## International variation in GP treatment strategies for subclinical hypothyroidism in older adults: a case-based survey

Wendy PJ den Elzen, Anne A Lefèvre-van de Fliert, Vanessa Virgini, Simon P Mooijaart, Peter Frey, Patricia M Kearney, Ngaire Kerse, Christian D Mallen, Vera JC McCarthy, Christiane Muth, Thomas Rosemann, Audrey Russell, Henk Schers, David J Stott, Margot WM de Waal, Alex Warner, Rudi GJ Westendorp, Nicolas Rodondi, and Jacobijn Gussekloo  
Br J Gen Pract 2015 Feb; 65 (631): e121 -e132 . <http://dx.doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X683569>

## E-health and consultation rates for respiratory illnesses in infants: a randomised clinical trial in primary care

Anne C van der Gugten, Cuno SPM Uiterwaal, Theo JM Verheij, and Cornelis K van der Ent  
Br J Gen Pract 2015 Feb; 65 (631): e61 -e68 . <http://dx.doi.org/10.3399/bjgp15X683485>

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## PEER REVIEW: STILL ALIVE AND WELL



Peer review of papers submitted to scholarly journals has its critics, and has well-recognised imperfections, but an alternative and better system of assuring the quality and integrity of academic publication has yet to be devised. A survey of almost 4000 academic researchers, working across a range of disciplines in the US and UK,<sup>1,2</sup> found that the trustworthiness of articles, in terms of what is published, read and cited, is most closely linked to whether they are peer reviewed.

Digital publication appears to have had little impact on the importance of peer review as the basis for trustworthiness, and most researchers in this study did not trust social media as a source of reliable information on publication quality or for citation. There was an interesting and surprisingly common misperception that open access journals do not have proper peer review systems. While this may be true for the so-called

'predatory' open access journals which have sprung up in recent years, it is generally untrue, and emphatically not the case for the BJGP, which applies the same peer review methodology to all research papers considered for publication.

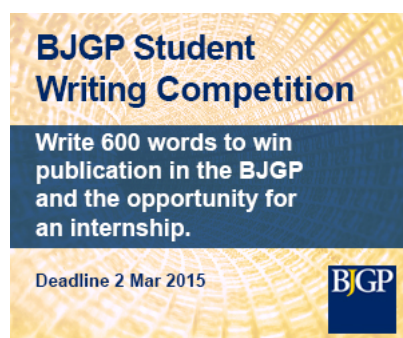
## References

1. Nicholas D, Watkinson A, Jamali HR et al. [Peer review: still king in the digital age](#). *Learned Publishing* 2015; 28(1): 15-21.
2. CICS/CIBER. [Trust and Authority in Scholarly Communications in the Light of the Digital Era](#). 2013.

## eLetters

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