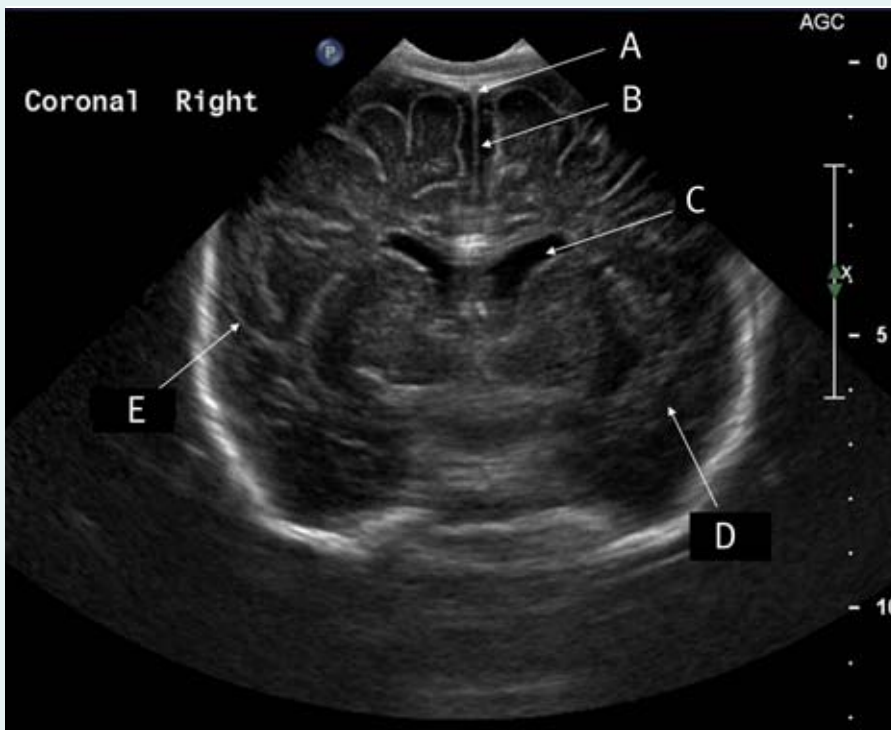


ENDGAMES

We welcome contributions that would help doctors with postgraduate examinations
▶ See bmj.com/endgames for details

FOLLOW ENDGAMES ON TWITTER
@BMJEndgames
FOR SHORT ANSWERS See p 41
FOR LONG ANSWERS
Go to the Education channel on bmj.com



ANATOMY QUIZ

Coronal section of brain

Identify the structures labelled A to E in this coronal section of a 6 week infant's brain using ultrasound.

Submitted by Moayed Alawami and Hassan J Alduhailib
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;344:e4013

CASE REPORT

A human bite

A 26 year old man presented to the emergency department with a painful right ear after having been bitten three hours earlier during an altercation. He also reported receiving a blow to his right eye during the incident. He was normally fit and well and not taking any regular drugs. On examination, he was alert, orientated, and afebrile. His right ear and the immediate surrounding tissue were erythematous and swollen. Soft tissue from the helix was missing superiorly, and about a third of the skin covering the posterior surface of the auricle was absent. His right eye was purple and swollen, with conjunctival haemorrhage present. He had normal visual acuity and a score of 15 out of 15 on the Glasgow coma scale.

- 1 What are your most immediate concerns?
- 2 How would you treat this patient?
- 3 Which immunisations should be considered for this patient?
- 4 What other risks are associated with such injuries?
- 5 What is the most appropriate management for this patient?

Submitted by David A Pettitt, Adeyinka Molajo, and Paul McArthur
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;345:e4798

STATISTICAL QUESTION

Confidence intervals and statistical significance: rules of thumb

Researchers compared the effectiveness of cryotherapy with that of salicylic acid for treating plantar warts. A randomised controlled trial was performed. Participants were eligible if aged 12 years or over. Those randomised to cryotherapy had liquid nitrogen delivered by a healthcare professional, with a maximum of four treatments, 2-3 weeks apart. Participants randomised to 50% salicylic acid (Verrugon) treated themselves daily for a maximum of eight weeks.

The primary outcome was complete clearance of all plantar warts at 12 weeks, as confirmed by inspection of digital photographs by two assessors who were blind to treatment

allocation. Secondary outcomes included patients' self reported number of days until clearance of plantar warts in the six months after randomisation. The proportion of participants with complete clearance of plantar warts at 12 weeks was higher in the salicylic group (17 of 119 (14.29%) versus 15 of 110 (13.64%); difference 0.65% (95% confidence interval -8.33 to 9.63)). The hazard ratio for self reported time to clearance of plantar warts in the six months after randomisation when salicylic acid was compared with cryotherapy was 0.8 (0.51 to 1.25).

Submitted by Philip Sedgwick
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2012;345:e4960

Which of the following statements, if any, can be concluded?

- a) The percentage difference between treatment groups in complete clearance of plantar warts at 12 weeks was not significant at the 5% level because the associated 95% confidence interval straddled zero.
- b) The hazard ratio for self reported time to clearance of plantar warts was significant at the 5% level because the associated 95% confidence interval did not straddle zero.
- c) The hazard ratio for self reported time to clearance of plantar warts was not significant at the 5% level because the 95% confidence interval straddled unity.