Chocolate is no sweetener for concerns!

A couple of months ago there were reports of a breakthrough for curing persistent coughs, which affects approximately 7.5 million of the UK population. As the drug BC1036 entered into its final stages of human clinical trials, the nation consumed more chocolate containing small quantities of Theobromine.

However, chocolate may have a role to play in keeping the patients’ mood upbeat whilst in hospital but it will not ‘Cure the NHS’. A campaign mentioned by Andy Mardell in his Viewpoint, focuses on the prevention of incidents similar to what occurred in the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust. They also offer emotional support to families and seek new ways to improve the local health service.

Improvements and patient safety are indeed paramount in our practice and among patients within our care. Karen McCollgan advocates we need to consider all risks for patients within our care. She discusses the anxiety surrounding childbirth especially for those undergoing caesarean section. Karen also advises individualised and person centred approaches will provide safe and optimum care.

Perioperative practitioners too take their responsibilities very seriously and are constantly looking to improve patient care. In this month’s issue, we address two letters of concern relating to the article, ‘Perioperative transfusion: the role of allogenous (sic) and autologous transfusions, and pharmacological agents’ that was published in August 2010.

Although readers are paid £10, the price of a box of chocolates, for their letters, we must remember that the reason why they write to the editor is not for the sweetener but to express their professional views. Both letters were taken very seriously. The authors of the article were invited to redress the concerns. I sincerely thank all colleagues for challenging, working together and giving permission to print their views.

And finally, I would also like to thank Aidan Crowley, Student ODP in sharing his reflections and tips on how he got through the first year of his studies. I am sure other students will find his tips helpful in minimizing their anxiety and above all keeping themselves, colleagues and patients safe in clinical practice.

Review Panel
- Jenny Jopson, Senior Lecturer, University of Southampton
- Melody Johnson, Sister, Day Surgery Unit, Ashford Hospital
- Adrian Jones, Senior Orthopaedic Surgical Care Practitioner, Norfolk and Norwich University NHS Trust and Lecturer Practitioner, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of East Anglia
- Moya Jonkman, Clinical Educator, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Southampton
- Sue Lorenz, Senior Lecturer, Anglia Ruskin University
- Rosanne Macqueen, Senior Charge Nurse, Theatres, Strathclyde Hospital, NHS Tayside
- Andy Mardell, Practice Educator, Main Theatres, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
- Shirley Martin, Surgical Care Practitioner and Robotics Specialist Nurse, St Mary’s NHS Trust
- Karen McCollgan, Teaching Fellow, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen’s University Belfast
- Lucy Mitchell, Psychology Research Assistant, University of Aberdeen
- Amanda Parker, Director of Nursing, Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, West Sussex
- Julie Seed, Trainee Surgical Care Practitioner, Royal Preston Hospital
- Professor Judith Tanner, Chair of Clinical Nursing Research, De Montfort University and University Hospitals, Leicester
- Vanessa Tufail, Clinical Coordinator, Royal Berkshire Hospital
- Linda Walker, Senior Nurse, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust
- Paul Wacker, Head of Perioperative Studies, Edgware University and Visiting Professor at Nanjing Medical University, China
- Marilyn Williams, Senior Lecturer, School of Health, University of Wolverhampton (retired)

Further reading
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