Patient Engagement in Scholarly Publishing
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Annals of Internal Medicine’s Mission

...to promote excellence in medicine, enable physicians and other health care professionals to be well informed members of the medical community and society, advance standards in the conduct and reporting of medical research, and contribute to improving the health of people worldwide.
Potential Roles for “Patients”

- Readers
- Authors
- Reviewers
- Others?

Patients as Readers

- Media materials
  - media tip sheets
  - video news releases
- Patient information
  - In the Clinic patient info
  - Summaries for Patients
    - clinical guidelines
    - selected original research articles
2018 Annals Articles with Largest Media Reach

Stories With the Most Mentions

- ACP Response to NRA: 343,700,094
- Hot Tea and Esophageal Cancer: 153,065,469
- ACP Diabetes Guideline: 45,755,587
- Breast Cancer Risk After Childbirth: 44,426,983
- Joy of Cooking Retraction: 60,740,720
- Many Opioid Scripts Lack Reason: 52,055,254
- Long-term Risks to Living Kidney Donors: 53,428,009
- Drug Overdose and More Available Kidneys: 127,348,932

Annals of Internal Medicine

Rolling Stone

Marijuana Edibles Driving ER Visits in Colorado, Study Reports

A new study suggests that some of us are losing our minds when it comes to edibles.

People in Colorado are eating marijuana edibles and treating themselves out.

One of the primary arguments from opponents of marijuana legalization is that legal marijuana will endanger the youth of America and cause an exponential rise in injuries and fatalities. Needless to say, this is unlikely. One study shows that if marijuana is consumed responsibly, the rates of serious health risks is that we may find Friedly side effects. But the key word here is “responsible.” and apparently some people are not being responsible when it comes to edibles consumption.

According to a study published in the Journal of Internal Medicine, a surprising number of emergency room visits in the state of Colorado were due to people ingesting marijuana in the form of edibles (i.e., candy or pastries). The researchers at the University of Colorado Hospital assessed the frequency of cannabis-related emergency room visits in the state of Colorado after it passed a 2012 measure legalizing the sale of marijuana. Between the years of 2013 and 2015, the study looked at almost 24,000 emergency room visits.
SUMMARIES FOR PATIENTS

Breast Cancer Screening in Average-Risk Women

What's the problem and what is known about it so far?

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. Breast cancer screening via breast self-exam and mammography are two methods used to detect breast cancer early, which may improve outcomes.

How do the different groups of patients differ?

Some experts recommend starting routine screening for breast cancer at age 40, while others recommend starting at age 45. For women with a family history of breast cancer, starting screening at a younger age may be recommended. For women with mutations in genes like BRCA1 or BRCA2, starting screening at age 25 or younger may be recommended.

What are the benefits and harms of screening?

Screening can help detect breast cancer early, which may improve outcomes. However, screening can also result in false-positive results, which may lead to additional tests and procedures. Additionally, screening can lead to anxiety and distress for some women.

How do we know these recommendations work?

Clinical trials and observational studies have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of breast cancer screening. These studies have shown that screening can help detect breast cancer early, but they also have limitations, such as selection bias and differences in study design.

How do we decide what is best for me?

It is important to discuss breast cancer screening with your healthcare provider to determine what is best for you, based on your age, family history, personal history, and other factors.
Patients as Authors

- Occasional research articles and clinical guidelines include “patient” authors, expected to follow same practices and policies as any other author
- If patient authors are paid for their participation, that should be disclosed
- On Being a Patient essays

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**On Being a Patient**

*Let Me Ring the Bell*

I’ve watched it time after time. Family and friends wait outside the infusion room for their loved one to emerge. The last treatment is done, the cancer gone, Cheers and hugs! The patient rings the bell. Nurses and doctors join in. A family flare! Tears abound. But one third of them will be back with a recurrence. And they will join me. I was diagnosed with stage IIIA non-small cell lung cancer, having an earlier stage of cancer. My treatment is long, my face much of the time is scrunched up. But my hope is to make a comeback from the cancer, to go on from the cancer. That’s the reality. That is the reality they will be joining.

I am 3 years in. I have not been one of those “average” stage IIIA patients who died within 3 years. I have endured continual chemotherapy, brain surgery, and endless days in the ICU, and . . . I go back to work. I have never skipped a treatment. Never lost my optimism. Never given up hope. Endured. That’s the word. Endurance. I have it. And that counts for something. That’s worthy of ringing a bell. And so I asked whether I could, and they said that I deserved to ring any bell I wanted to in Philadelphia.

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All that remained was to pick the day: somewhere approximating my fifteenth chemotherapy treatment, and sometimes when my son could come home from college; my daughter had no crucial basketball game; my husband could get off work; and, of course, my oncologist and his nurse could be there, too. Like planning for a huge party or a holiday. That day came, and I got to ring the bell. With my family, my godmother, and my doctor and his fellow. Celebrating stamina and my endurance. There were huge cheers all around. As there will be at the moment of my husbands’ treatment.

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Patients as Reviewers

- Pilot study in process
- Small set of mentored patient reviewers
- Preliminary observations
  - patient reviewers (like expert reviewers) need lots of mentoring to provide useful reviews
  - patient comments unlikely to have a big impact on editorial decisions or manuscript content
  - Patient comments often would have been more helpful when research was being conceptualized than at the time of publication