

larly, significantly elevated triglyceride levels might best be targeted directly with fibrates.

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Competing interests: Dr. Fantus has received an honorarium for a lecture from Bristol Myers Squibb (distributor of metformin in the United States). None declared for Dr. Cheng.

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Benzene rings

A recent Clinical Vistas article¹ provides an interesting look at the similarity between homogentisic acid, which is excreted in the urine of people with alkaptonuria, and hydroquinone, which is used in the process to develop photographs. Unfortunately, both of the chemical structures provided in the article are wrong. Homogentisic acid and hydroquinone are both aromatic compounds (the author alludes to this by referring to the benzene ring of hydroquinone) that have a 6-membered, not an 8-membered, ring.

Perhaps a minor point, but worth correcting, because in chemistry, biochemistry and the medical arts and sciences, structure is everything.

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Reference

1. Maxwell D. Alkaptonuria and photography: a patient's urine tells the story. *CMAJ* 2005;172(8):1002-3.

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[The author responds:]

I am most grateful to Dr. Atkinson for pointing out my error. He is, of course, absolutely correct. The error crept in when I tried to replicate my

hand-drawn diagram, using a word-processing program to draw the chemical structure. As noted,¹ the chemical structures of homogentisic acid and hydroquinone are strikingly similar.

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Reference

1. Maxwell D. Alkaptonuria and photography: a patient's urine tells the story. *CMAJ* 2005;172(8):1002-3.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050165

Corrections

In a recent article,¹ a link to an online version of Table 1 incorrectly lists the volume number as 1723 as opposed to 173.

Reference

1. Dendukuri N, Costa V, McGregor M, Brophy JM. Probiotic therapy for the prevention and treatment of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhea: a systematic review. *CMAJ* 2005;173(2):167-70.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.050907

In a recent article,¹ the affiliations of 3 authors were mistakenly omitted. Patricia Pugh is the study coordinator (Newmarket, Ont.), Beverley Chalmers is an international health consultant (Kingston, Ont.) and Freda Seddon is a community midwife (Bobcaygeon, Ont.). We apologize for this error.

Reference

1. Carroll JC, Reid AJ, Biringer A, Midmer D, Glazier RH, Wilson L, et al. Effectiveness of the Antenatal Psychosocial Health Assessment (ALPHA) form in detecting psychosocial concerns: a randomized controlled trial. *CMAJ* 2005;173(3):253-9.

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