Cocaine is a strong sodium-channel blocker and this effect trumps its adrenergic effects. The net effect is to increase the threshold for ventricular fibrillation by at least 50%, not lower it. The authors asked how we can resolve the conflicting experimental findings. The answer has been known since 1936: it is far easier to cause ventricular fibrillation in a small swine than in a human. There is no conflict within the larger body of clinical literature, which consistently shows no problems with the use of electronic control devices in humans.

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Competing Interests: Mark Kroll, Richard Luceri and William Heegaard hold stock in TASER International. Mark Kroll and Michael Graham have served as consultants for TASER International. Mark Kroll has received travel assistance from TASER International for attending medical conferences. Hugh Calkins is a paid consultant for TASER International. Richard Luceri is a paid board member of TASER International and has received travel assistance for attending board meetings. William Heegaard has received travel assistance to attend a scientific medical advisory board meeting and has been paid for medical advice about conducted electrical devices.

REFERENCES


Corrections

A news item about neglected diseases research in the Aug. 12, 2008, issue should have stated that the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative has raised US$118 million for its research program.

REFERENCE

1. Silversides, A. For the record: G8 attention to neglected diseases research welcomed. CMAJ 2008;179:316.


A news story about Health Canada’s investment in a new post-market drug surveillance network that was published online at www.cma.ca on July 16, 2008, and in the August 26 print issue should have stated that rofecoxib (Vioxx) was withdrawn from the Canadian market in 2004.

REFERENCE


In the print version of a recent commentary, the references were not cited in the correct order in the text. The online version is correct (available at www.cma.ca/cgi/content/full/179/6/509).

REFERENCE


In the print version of a recent review article, the references were not cited in the correct order in the text. Also, the following sentence was missing from the end of the first paragraph on page 546: “Comorbid conditions frequently observed in athletes, such as rhinitis, vocal cord dysfunction or gastroesophageal reflux, may affect asthma control or act as confounders, and investigation and treatment is necessary.” The online version is correct (available at www.cma.ca/cgi/content/full/179/6/543).

REFERENCE


Letters submission process

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Letters

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