HIV vasculopathy reviewed

This issue of the *South African Journal of Surgery* is unique: it consists exclusively of invited reviews. Its genesis was triggered by the sad realisation that South African surgeons have probably accumulated more experience in the handling of HIV-related vascular disease than anyone else in the world. This started during the dark days of state denial when, while our newly democratic government incomprehensibly denied a basic human right to its citizens, clinicians had to work out elementary principles of treatment from scratch. At present, when at least a proportion of the needy are permitted access to drugs that can restore immune competence, the treatment of the afflicted is less hopeless; nevertheless, even now the majority still do not have access to lifesaving agents. This virus affects every facet of the practice of medicine; no discipline, system, organ or practitioner is spared the chaotic ravages of the plague. The vascular system is no exception; understandings that had served us for millennia have had to be abandoned, and systems of pathology and appropriate treatments elucidated anew.

The papers include discussions of the pathogenesis of HIV vasculopathy; venous thrombo-embolic disease; arterial occlusive conditions; cardiac, cerebral and renal manifestations; Kaposi’s sarcoma; and the influence of antiretroviral therapy. Surgeons from across South Africa have contributed papers wrung from their hard-earned understanding, and we hope that this collected experience will guide practitioners throughout the continent.

G. J. Oettle
Editor

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Notice of withdrawal of paper

It is with considerable regret that the *South African Journal of Surgery* has to announce a case of flagrant plagiarism, and the consequent erasure of the paper from its archive.

The paper, entitled ‘Publish or Perish revisited’, was published last year, in volume 46 (p. 62).

Only recently was it noticed by an observant reader that more than half of the manuscript as originally submitted had been lifted verbatim (cut, pasted, and interwoven) from two papers in the *British Journal of Surgery*, ironically from a series on scientific writing that journal ran in 2000 (*Br J Surg* 87: 3-5; 132-134).

When the *Journal* confronted the author, he immediately acknowledged the plagiarism. PubMed have been informed, and will erase the paper from their records. The *Journal* regrets having to publicise this matter, but would remind its readership of the gravity of the offence, and the presupposition of intellectual integrity that underlies all scientific endeavour.