

**Meckel's diverticulum**

A review article should be complete to be authoritative. In the review by Sagar *et al.*<sup>1</sup> (October 2006, *JRSM*), the authors suggest aspiring surgeons learn that a Meckel's diverticulum may present incidentally by haemorrhage, by intussusception or other forms of intestinal obstruction, by peptic ulceration, by involvement in a Littre's hernia or as an umbilical fistula or that it may undergo neoplastic change. It should be acknowledged that enterolith calculi arise in Meckel's diverticula.<sup>2,3</sup> This uncommon complication of the congenital anomaly is not unique to Australia.

Also, in the interests of pedantry, the name of *Fabricius Hildanus* is thus, not as is written on page 502 of the review. Furthermore, the word *melaena* referring to dark tarry stools is also misspelt in the long uninterrupted paragraph on page 503 concerning diagnostic dilemmas.

*Competing interests* None declared.

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**REFERENCES**

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- 2 Donaldson W. Calculi in Meckel's diverticulum: a case report and a review. *ANZ J Surg* 1978;**48**:644–6
- 3 Grinsell D, Donaldson E. Giant Meckel's diverticulum with enterolith formation. *ANZ J Surg* 2003;**73**:968–9

**Etymology of the word 'Bimaristan'**

With reference to the article by Miller (December 2006, *JRSM*) readers may be interested to know that in the Farsi language (Persian), Bimar means a patient (not a disease, which is Bimaree). Bimaristan means a place where patients reside. The etymology of words like 'Afghanistan' is now obvious.

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