issue of *Haematologica* (2006;91: 490–495) on a study to determine the optimal time for pre-autologous stem cell transplantation PET imaging in patients with relapsed lymphoma. The study included 39 patients (28 with aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [NHL] and 11 with Hodgkin's disease) who were eligible for second-line chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation. Each patient underwent PET imaging at 2 or 3 time points: before treatment; after 2 cycles of induction chemotherapy; and, in individuals with an abnormal second PET, after a third cycle of chemotherapy, just before transplantation. Patients were followed for at least 6 months (median, 22 months) after therapy, and 54% relapsed after stem cell transplantation. Those patients who showed a complete response on PET after the second and third cycles of chemotherapy had 2-year progression-free survival rates of 71% and 58%. Those who showed no response relapsed soon after transplantation. The authors concluded that 2 serial PET scans predict outcomes after autologous stem cell transplantation more precisely than the more standard single interim PET in patients with relapsed lymphoma.

Haematologica

Cervical Spinal Cord Stimulation

Clavo et al. from the Dr. Negrin University Hospital (Las Palmas, Spain) reported in the April issue of the *Journal of Neurosurgery* (2006; 104:537−541) on a study using ^{18}F-FDG PET to evaluate changes in glucose metabolism in brain tumors before and during cervical spinal cord stimulation. The authors have previously reported in 3 articles (most recently in *Ann Oncol.* 2004;15: 802−807) on the effects of such stimulation on regional blood flow and oxygenation in head and neck tumors. The study included 11 patients with high-grade gliomas (6 recurrent), who underwent initial PET imaging to verify status, followed by cervical spinal cord stimulation. A second PET study was acquired during stimulation. Basal glucose metabolism was found to be higher in tumor than in peritumoral areas, with significant increases in glucose uptake during stimulation of 43% and 38%, respectively. The authors concluded that this study confirms a modification of locoregional blood flow and oxygenation by cervical spinal cord stimulation and suggest that these results "open up new approaches to modifying the effect of radiochemotherapy in the treatment of malignant brain tumors."

Journal of Neurosurgery

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PET as Focus of Annual *BMJ* Spoof

The medical world waits with bated breath for the annual *British Medical Journal* (*BMJ*) contribution to straight-faced farce on April 1. This year, the fictitious but soberly reported offering focused on a neurologic application of PET in "a new and potentially life-threatening condition called motivational deficiency disorder (MoDeD)." Citing the groundbreaking work of Dr. Leth Argos, a neurologist at the University of Newcastle in Australia, the article described the primary symptoms of MoDeD as "overwhelming and debilitating apathy, which in severe cases can lead to a potentially fatal complication: a lack of motivation to breathe." PET was featured as the optimal diagnostic approach for the condition. The article noted that 1 study estimated that 1 in 5 Australians may have the condition, costing the economy $1.7 billion per year in lost productivity. But, the article continued, help may be on the way in the form of Indolebant, a cannabinoid CB1 receptor to be marketed by Healthtec, an Australian biotechnology company concluding phase II trials of the MoDeD treatment. Argos was quoted as noting, "Indolebant is effective and well tolerated. One young man who could not leave his sofa is now working as an investment adviser in Sydney." *BMJ* carried the satire a step further with countercomments from a clinical pharmacologist who accused his colleagues of "medicalizing" normal slacker tendencies. "Indolebant may bring some relief to those with a debilitating form of MoDeD," he said, "But common laziness is not a disease. People have an absolute right to just sit there."

Fans of the annual *BMJ* tradition are hard pressed to know which is more entertaining: the satire itself or the astonishing number of newspapers and other media outlets that pick up the story each year and unquestioningly run it as serious news.

British Journal of Medicine

Erratum

A typographical error on the second page of the article "SNMTS Announces 2006 Scholarship and Grant Recipients" in the April 2006 Newsline (*J Nucl Med.* 2006:47[4]:25N–26N) incorrectly associated the Mayo Clinic with Maryland (MD) rather than Minnesota (MN). A corrected version of the page has been placed in the online archives. Newsline regrets the error.