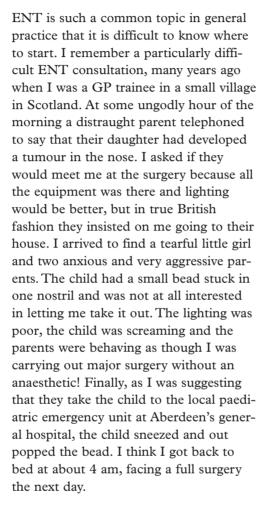
## **Editor's comment**

## Sniffles and sneezes



This was probably one of the more memorable ENT contacts during my GP career. But almost every day saw some type of ENT consultation, usually associated with viral infections of the upper respiratory tract. Having frequently had the antibiotic argument with patients and parents, I am particularly pleased to see that the inappropriate use of antibiotics is highlighted in some articles. Antibiotics are vital medications, but they have their place and will only remain effective if properly used.

Tonsillectomy is not quite as common an operation as it once was, but the two arti-

cles on the pitfalls of the procedure should be useful to rural practitioners who often have to deal with the aftermath of surgery without easy access to specialist care. Allergy is another very common presentation and results in many ENT complications. Its management is complex, but a good understanding of how the complications arise definitely helps.

This edition of *CME* should help all GPs who see too many sore throats to remember, enjoy their ENT practice and feel on top of the game.

This is the last edition of *CME* for 2003. It has been a difficult year for most doctors and GPs in particular, with changes in legislation threatening to erode their independence further. However, none of this is yet cast in stone and hopefully well-argued opposition may yet temper the wilder decisions of the Department of Health. In the meantime, may I and my team at *CME* wish all our readers a peaceful end to the year and an excellent 2004.



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