

Letters to the Editor

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Please include your complete address, e-mail address, telephone number, and fax number. Letters should be fewer than 400 words and limited to six references, one table or figure, and three authors.

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Cover Illustration Should Have Emphasized Cough Hygiene

Original Article: Evaluation of the Patient with Chronic Cough

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TO THE EDITOR: I was disappointed that the cover art for the October 15, 2011 issue of *American Family Physician*'s article on chronic cough showed a man coughing into his clenched fist. This act will contaminate his hand, thus spreading any viral or bacterial secretions onto whatever he touches. In addition, some viral or bacterial secretions will not land on his fist but will fly into the surrounding air, possibly contaminating the air for others.

In my opinion, the illustration should have portrayed a person coughing into several layers of disposable tissues or the upper part of his or her sleeve. Both of these methods will help prevent the spread of any transmissible diseases.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the cover might illustrate typical behavior among people with colds, Dr. Bett makes a good point that it would be better to model the recommended method of coughing to reduce the spread of infection.

JAY SIWEK, MD
Editor, *American Family Physician*

Corrections

In the STEPS article "Tapentadol (Nucynta) for Treatment of Pain" (May 1, 2012, page 910), the second sentence of the first paragraph incorrectly states that tapentadol blocks the *mu* opioid receptor (page 910). The sentence should have read: "It has two mechanisms of action: in addition to acting at the *mu* opioid receptor, tapentadol blocks norepinephrine uptake, although the clinical relevance of this additional action is not known." The online version of this article has been corrected.

The article "The Adult Well Male Examination" (May 15, 2012, page 964) contained multiple errors. In the row on physical activity in Table 2 (page 966), the recommended minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise should have been at least 150 minutes per week, rather than at least 250 minutes per week. This recommendation is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The statement should have read: "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that men participate in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise per week, as well as muscle strengthening at least twice per week." The abstract (page 964), Table 4 (page 969), and the last sentence under the colorectal cancer section (page 969) contained incorrect statements regarding the recommended screening test interval for sigmoidoscopy combined with fecal occult blood testing. The recommended screening test interval should have been sigmoidoscopy every five years combined with fecal occult blood testing every three years. The online version of this article has been corrected. ■