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Highlights of this edition

doi:10.1136/jramc-2017-000797

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This edition is even more international than normal with contributions from South Korea, Turkey, France, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands and India and these international contributions are most welcome and contribute to our ongoing commitment to become the premier international military medical journal. That having been said there is still a healthy breadth of UK contributions across a variety of specialties.

APPENDICITIS WHEN DEPLOYED

Deployment, even in the most trauma-centric environment, will still present the 'usual' crop of medical and surgical emergency presentations and the paper from

Howes *et al* describes a 2 year review of appendicectomy in Camp Bastion. It provides interesting insights into how we deal with this disease overseas, and begins the discussion of how we should treat this condition in the future with consideration of conservative management protocols.

BLAST INJURY

In the midst of the worldwide epidemic of trauma, one of the things that consistently sets military traumatologists apart from their civilian counterparts is their knowledge and understanding of the strange phenomenon that is blast injury. The article by Scott *et al*, introduces new concepts of blast lung modelling and peers into the future as to how we can continue to evolve to meet the challenges that this presents.

VENOUS REPAIR IS IMPORTANT

This edition contains the first article in recent times from Sri Lanka which details

their experience with vascular injuries from the prolonged civil war in that country. They conclude that concomitant venous repair is an important part of limb salvage.

A PAIN IN THE . . . LEGS

Zimmerman's article is timely and welcome. Musculoskeletal injuries especially overuse injuries of the lower limbs have long been the scourge of the Armed Forces, the infantry in particular, and this review highlights protocols for precise diagnosis and new modalities for treatment that are much less surgically based than ever before.

. . . AND FINALLY

The short note from Dhar raises an interesting discussion point: in the face of 6 deaths from what is said to be a non-lethal riot control method, is it not now time to reclassify these pellet guns as a potentially lethal weapon?

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