cells. The patient was treated with systemic steroids which resulted in normalisation of his serum calcium levels.

In the index patient, none of these usual causes of hypercalcaemia could be established, on grounds of either clinical or special investigation. It would be of interest to test serum calcium levels in all patients with chronic tophaceous gout to establish whether hypercalcaemia is a common association.

References


We hereby wish to apologise for a mistake in the above-mentioned article’s abstract. The number of patients in the results paragraph was accidently printed as “85” instead of “185”. The corrected abstract is featured below. Please refer to the full text article on www.jemdsa.co.za

Abstract
Objectives: Carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT) is a surrogate marker of subclinical atherosclerosis and a predictor of cardiovascular events. Few studies in Africa have evaluated CIMT and its associations in people with type 2 diabetes mellitus. This study measured CIMT in a sample of mainly black South African patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus, and evaluated the association of demographic and clinical risk factors with CIMT.

Design: Cross-sectional study.

Setting: Kalafong Hospital, a large community hospital in Pretoria that mainly serves an urban black community.

Subjects: Patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Outcome measures: We evaluated clinical, biochemical and CIMT ultrasound measurements in a standardised fashion.

Results: In 185 patients, the univariate significant predictors of mean far-wall CIMT were age [beta 0.007 (standard error 0.001)], systolic blood pressure [beta 0.001 (standard error 0.000)] and inverse serum creatinine [beta -8.15 (standard error 3.23)]. Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, apolipoprotein A-1, apolipoprotein B:A-1 ratio and apolipoprotein B:A-1 ratio > 1.2 all had p-values below 0.1, but above 0.05. Age had the largest R-squared (20%). The multivariate models did not explain more of the variation in CIMT than did age alone.

Conclusion: Lipid parameters were related to CIMT in our study population. However, this did not reach statistical significance in this relatively small sample, and lipids added very little to the variability of CIMT compared with age alone.