



# Chronic dermatitis

A 57 year old man with a history of diabetes presents with chronic dermatitis in the third interspace of his left hand. Current medications include oral antihypertensives and sulfonylureas for glycaemic control.



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## Question 1

What is the most likely diagnosis?

## Question 3

What is the significance?

## Question 2

What is the etiology?

## Question 4

What is the treatment?

## Answer to last month's brain teaser



## Answer 1

Digital mucous cyst.

## Answer 2

These structures occur on the dorsal surface of the distal phalanx of middle aged and elderly patients. These cysts contain a clear viscous jelly-like substance that exudes if the cyst is incised.

## Answer 3

Simple surgical removal leads to frequent recurrence with failure rates ranging from 25–100%. Injection with triamcinolone deep into the cyst is also associated with a high recurrence rate. The highest rate of cure has been reported with the simple technique of repeated punctures and expression of the cyst contents.

AFP

Send your answers to arrive by 5 May. A voucher for medical books or medical equipment to the value of \$100 will be awarded for the first correct entry drawn. The winner will be notified by mail and the answer published in the May 2003 issue.

Address entries to:  
**April Brain Teaser**  
**Australian Family Physician**  
**1 Palmerston Crescent**  
**South Melbourne**  
**Victoria 3205**

The winner of the January/February Brain teaser is Dr C Aarons, Bondi Junction, NSW