**CONTENTS**

The features marked with a star (*) are based entirely on material taken straight from standard research (and other Official and Therefore Always Correct) literature. Many of the other articles are genuine, too, but we don’t know which ones.

**Special Section: Women (and Men)**

- 4 Women and Children Lastness in Shipwrecks*
- 5 Cool and Hot Women and Men*
- 6 A Little-Remarked Remarkable Woman*
- 9 Women and Math and Science and Romance*
- 11 Medical Research: Rescuers Hands, Ponytail Headache, Elevation for Nursing*
- 13 A Woman Who*
- 17 Body of Work: Kathleen M. Dillon*
- 20 Cats Research: Girls, and Men and Datability*
- 22 Some Men's Reactions to Babes*
- 24 Pleasant Odors Research: Women and Men*

**Improbable Research Reviews**

- 2 May We Recommend: Duckling Waves*
- 8 Icky Cutesy: Back Pane, Cat CAT Scan, Tongue Needle*
- 15 Improbable Research: Women and Weights, Bank Notes, Apple Juice Haze*
- 26 Frogs Research: Flicking and Cannibalism*
- 27 Chocolate Packaging Research Review*
- 28 Ig® and Beyond: Qubits and Tardigrades and Pooing*

**News & Notes**

- 3 AIR Vents: Coprophagia and Authoritarians
- 25 AIR Books
- 26 Teachers’ Guide
- 30 Ig Nobel Limericks: Vampire Bats and Side Scratching*
- 31 Back Issues
- IBC Unclassified Ads

---

**Where There’s More**

There’s always new improbable — it’s not what you expect! — stuff on the Improbable Research blog at IMPROBABLE.COM

**Listen to the Improbable Research podcast!**

https://www.improbable.com/category/the-weekly-improbable-research-podcast/

---

**On the Front and Back Covers**

Images of once-famous women and a few men, adapted from photos on file at the Library of Congress.

**Some Coming Events**

The Covid-19 pandemic has introduced excitingly boundless uncertainty as to whether, when, and where public activities will happen in the near future. In 2022 some will happen teledistantly.

(See IMPROBABLE.COM for details of these and other events.)

**Improbable Conversations with Researchers**

See schedule on the web site.

**Summer 2022**

Ig Nobel Prizes Exhibition in Taiwan

**September 15, 2022**

The 32nd First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony
Rescuers Intimidated by Women’s Chests

"Does the Sex of a Simulated Patient Affect CPR?" Chelsea E. Kramer, Matthew S. Wilkins, Jan M. Davies, Jeff K. Caird, and Gregory M. Hallihan, Resuscitation, vol. 86, 2015, pp. 82-87. The authors, at Université Laval and the University of Calgary, Canada explain:

While males and females are equally at risk of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), females are less likely to be resuscitated. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) may be inhibited by socio-cultural norms about exposing female victims’ chests. Empirically confirming this hypothesis is limited by lack of patient simulators modeling realistic female physiques. 

Results — Rescuers removed significantly more clothing from the male than the female, with men removing less clothing from the female. More rescuers' initial hand placements for CPR were centered between the female's breasts compared to the male, on which placement was distributed across the chest towards the nipples.

Does the sex of a simulated patient affect CPR?

Chelsea E. Kramer, lead author of the study "Does the Sex of a Simulated Patient Affect CPR?" Drawing by Nan Swift.
**Ponytail Headache**


Fifty of 93 females experienced headache from wearing a ponytail. Pain was experienced only at the site of the hair tie in 10 subjects, extending in others, forwards to the vertex (n = 5) or forehead (n = 7), laterally to the parietal region (n = 8) or temples (n = 3), downwards to the neck (n = 5), or to other areas (n = 12). Loosening the hair relieved pain immediately in 4 subjects, within half an hour in 32, and within an hour in 5 subjects; the remaining 9 subjects were uncertain of pain duration. This headache was preventable by wearing the ponytail more loosely tied.

Ponytail headache, well known to females, is not described in the medical literature because the remedy is obvious, therefore those affected do not seek medical advice. This seemingly common headache provides an example of a pure extracranial headache arising from pericranial muscle fascia and tendon traction. Males almost certainly have similar experiences, but were not questioned in this study.

**Women Lactate More While Watching Oprah**


Breastfeeding women who watched a morally elevating video [a 7-min clip from an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show] were more likely to nurse their infants and were marginally more likely to hug them, compared to women who watched an equally enjoyable comedy video [a 7-min clip from the commercial video Jerry Seinfeld: I'm telling you for the last time].

---

**Table 1.—Site of Ponytail Headache**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Subjects (n = 50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local at site of hair tie</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and extending to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertex</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forehead</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parietal region</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temples</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neck</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forehead and neck</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole head</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forehead only</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertex only</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Percent of Women Reporting Each Physical Symptom While Watching the Elevation and Amusement Videos**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical symptom</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Amusement</th>
<th>( \chi^2 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tears/crying</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.64**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smiling</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>2.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warm or pleasant feeling in chest</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills/goosebumps/tingling on skin</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump or tightness in throat</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings in stomach</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uterine contractions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings in breasts</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laughter</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>30.93***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note. Significance tested by chi-square statistic with df = 1, n = 42. **p < .05, *p < .01, ***p < .001. n.a. = not applicable; no test could be performed because there was no variance.*