

## Vertical Evolution<sup>#</sup>

Dictyostella\* forage around  
Singly, and virtually unbound.  
Yet during a genuine drought.  
The value of such freedom is in doubt,  
For their future would not look bright  
Unless they dutifully unite!  
Thereupon starts a CAMP surge  
And a hundred Thousand cells converge.  
As, their will, this molecule bends  
And, their multiplicity it ends.  
Now they are strongly urged to unite,  
To love each other rather than fight,  
To show exemplary altruism  
And to abandon idolism!  
Many amoebae thus apoptose  
To raise the living with no applause.  
From lowly underground heathen  
To multicellular slugs in 'heaven'!

\*Plural of Dictyostelium, a species of amoebae

<sup>#</sup>It is unusual for Saudi Medical Journal to publish such material. It is customary to reserve this section for scientific material only.

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## Correspondence

### Primary Hyperparathyroidism

Sir,

I read the interesting article of "Primary Hyperparathyroidism and Pregnancy" by Dr. Mona A. Fouda, but I think there are some other valuable points worth mentioning. For example, the parathyroid adenoma of women can be asymptomatic during pregnancy and with the evaluation of a symptomatic infant after delivery (including hypocalcemia and tetany), the diagnosis of adenoma being confirmed.<sup>1,2</sup>

Other complications for the fetus include; increase intrauterine fetal growth retardation, spontaneous abortion and stillbirth.<sup>3</sup> In addition, to maternal complaints described by Dr. Fouda, the patient may present herself with symptoms of toxemia of pregnancy, so differentiation between pre-eclampsia and the hyperparathyroidism should be kept in mind,

due to similar symptomatic and clinical findings.<sup>4,5</sup> Some authors explained that the mother presented herself first with the symptoms and signs of acute pancreatitis (including vomiting, nausea and abdominal pain). So the evaluation of the parathyroid glands for a co-existence of parathyroid adenoma during pregnancy should be considered in acute pancreatitis.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, determination of calcium serum concentration of every trimester of pregnancy and regular intervals after delivery and also serial ultrasound evaluation of the fetal growth are recommended.<sup>3,4</sup> And finally, about the mortality of this co-existence, some authors believe that this is related to delayed resection of parathyroid adenoma.<sup>6</sup>

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