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## Handedness and longevity: archival study of cricketers.

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See letter "[Handedness among surgeons.](#)" in volume 310 on page 739.

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVE**--To test whether handedness is associated with a change in longevity. **DESIGN**--Archival survey. **SETTING**--British Isles. **SUBJECTS**--All first class cricketers born before 1961 whose bowling hand was specified (right, n = 5041; left, n = 1132) in a comprehensive encyclopaedia. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES**--Bowling hand and life span. **RESULTS**--Regression analysis of the 5960 players born between 1840 and 1960 (3387 dead, 2573 alive) showed no significant relation between mortality and handedness ( $P = 0.3$ ). Left handedness was, however, associated with an increased likelihood of death from unnatural causes ( $P = 0.03$ , log hazard 0.37, 95% confidence interval 0.04 to

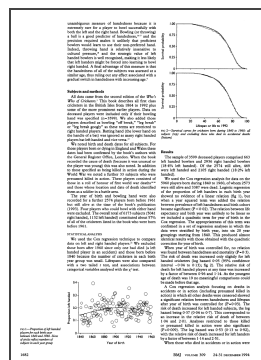
0.70). This effect was especially related to deaths during warfare (P = 0.009, log hazard 0.53, 0.13 to 0.92). **CONCLUSION**--Left handedness is not, in general, associated with an increase in mortality.

## Full text

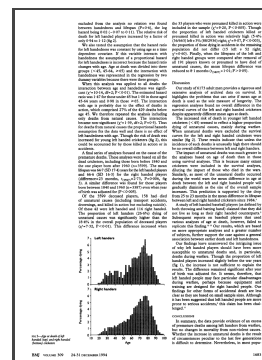
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1681



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## Images in this article



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