

II. The rights of patients to be fully, freely and properly informed

Diabetes is strongly affected by emotional factors. Confidence in the physician-patient relationship is essential for optimal management of diabetes.

As has happened so often in the past with the UGDP study, patients have been exposed to frightening headlines and unsubstantiated charges before the actual report has either appeared in the scientific press or been presented to a jury of its peers. This week, newspapers, TV and radio were flooded with statements unsupported by data before even the experts and diabetologists of our Committee could obtain any relevant information. It does not serve the interests of patients nor of the physician-patient relationship, nor of science itself to repeatedly confront such situations in which there is neither time for suitable study and deliberation nor for corrective action on the part of the medical profession.

This week, the worried diabetic who consults his physician can get little comfort from his doctor who has no data on which he can base an informed opinion on the Biometric Report. Both Dr. Chalmers editorial and the Biometric Report will not appear in J. A. M. A. until February. How is the diabetologist