antibiotics had been prescribed to women, but without adequate evidence from fair tests about their effects. As often happens, those who were given an inadequately evaluated treatment in ‘normal’ clinical practice were more likely to be harmed than those given the same treatment prescribed in a research context. Put another way, people were generally more at risk when they were not taking the drugs as part of a fair test.\textsuperscript{17,18,19}

Breast cancer
The treatment of breast cancer (see Chapter 3) provides another example of professional uncertainty. There is considerable variability in the use of surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. The best treatment of very early stage breast cancers and of ‘pseudo-cancers’ of the breast is unresolved, as is the ideal number of lymph nodes to remove from the armpit, or indeed whether any should be removed at all.\textsuperscript{20} As if that were not enough, topics of particular interest to patients, such as relief of fatigue associated with therapy, or the best way of treating lymphoedema of the arm – a distressing and disabling aftermath of surgery and radiotherapy in the armpit – still have not been tested adequately.