****CONSIDER BUYING SHARES ****TELL YOUR FRIENDS
***MAY BE USEFUL **LOOK IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO
*BEST AVOIDED

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWING

appropriate referral are summarised succinctly and inform individuals what important information should be imparted in a handover. It possesses a similar format to the American association's website, having links to it and the euroburn.nl, worldburn.com and Australian (anzba.org.au) sites.***

<http://www.emedicine.com>

This American website has been recently updated. By registering for free and searching under 'Burn', numerous relevant articles are found. Some of these are illustrated with colour photographs. A good introduction to the burns' history with a succinct outline of burn assessment and resuscitation are the strengths of the general pages. The articles on facial, electrical and chemical burns deliver more detail on subjects only touched upon in the overview pieces.***

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/burns/burnsmgt.pdf>

These guidelines for the management of burn injuries were produced by the Australian and New Zealand burn association almost 10 years ago. Although the pictures are in black and white, the PDF makes for a succinct summary of the initial management of small (those that do not need fluid resuscitation) burn injuries in the rural accident and emergency department. It is especially useful for algorithms of wound management, aimed at those clinicians without direct access to burns specialists and advises guidance on referral criteria. It suffers from the usual problems of foreign websites, namely that trademarked treatments in the UK are different.***

www.ameriburn.org

This is the official site of the American Burn Association. It contains links to courses, conferences and research fellowships with grants. It has limited clinical information but gives an excellent review of the wider context of burn care including prehospital care, the logistical necessities of setting up a burns unit and advice on access to ancillary staffing and post-hospital continuity of care. It introduces the concepts of a burn registry and details data desirable for audit.**

<http://www.phoenix-society.org>

This American support website tackles the psychological issues surrounding burn patients. It identifies difficult areas of rehabilitation and offers advice for patients and relatives on dealing with individuals who stare, problems of self-esteem, repeated hospitalisation, teasing and changes in family dynamics. It also touches upon the sensitive topics of regaining sexuality and the guilt of survival. With downloadable articles, it offers a good source of information for lay people and professionals to work together through anxious times. It is a useful resource when asked by patients or relatives for avenues to source and share experiences.**

www.burnsurvivorsassociation.com

These pages contain no medical information but plentiful links to survivor support organisations and professional bodies.*

Patient information: hip and knee arthroplasty

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Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC)

www.arc.org.uk

This British site contains downloads of all ARC's leaflets. This well-established organisation provides glossy leaflets for out-patient clinics and GP surgeries. All are available to download in PDF. The information, set out in a standard format, is comprehensive, if at times simplistic. As well as information on arthritis in general, there are tips on exercises, how to do gardening, drugs, physiotherapy and arthroplasty. It is a good place to start and includes information on hip and knee replacement, unicompartmental knee replacement, hip resurfacing and alternatives to surgery. It is the best site for information on operative risk providing reliable, quotable figures for all of the major compilations. The site does not go into the amount of technical detail as demanded by much of the patient group. It lacks any detailed images or interactive content. The ARC could also provide more foreign languages leaflets, at present osteomalacia is the only topic with multilingual attention.***

NHS Direct

www.besttreatments.co.uk

Similar to the ARC website but without the breadth of information, NHS Direct outlines the basics of hip and knee replacement, the risks and benefits and what to expect. It is the only site to reference the information provided. It is set out in similar language to ARC, describing hip and knee replacement as a 'big operation'. There is no multilingual content. The site also lacks good diagrams and images. It is useful to re-inforce information but does not offer any additional insight.***

Edheads

www.edheads.org

This excellent American site, sponsored by DePuy and Zimmer, gives patients an opportunity to play at surgeon, with an X-ray quiz and interactive surgery. There are also a series of not too gory theatre photos. It allows patients to get a real understanding of the technical aspects of arthroplasty. There is also 'my story', a video montage of patient experiences (all good ones!). Unfortunately, it is limited to total knee replacement and, being sponsored by a manufacturer, there is no mention of risks and postoperative rehabilitation. The site requires Flash so is not available to all. Overall, it is an excellent site and one I would recommend to any patient who wants to have a real understanding of what their operation will entail.*****

Total Knee Info

www.totalkneeinfo.com

This heavily sponsored site has an overview of total knee and hip arthroplasty. It also has links to other relevant sites. There is

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information on minimally invasive and computer-guided surgery. It does not provide and risk benefit information. It uses quite technical language and there are no diagrams, so would not be suitable for patients that know nothing about arthroplasty.**

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

www.orthoinfo.aaos.org

The patient education menu offers a wide range of topics on both hip and knee replacement from anaesthesia to rehabilitation. Each section provides brief information with sufficient content and appropriate language. The postoperative exercises section is very good. Some of the information is more relevant to the

American audience, for example drug names and some of the terminology, but overall this does not detract from the high quality of the content and is a site worth looking at.****

About

www.orthopedics.about.com/od/hipkneereplacement/

Heavily sponsored and overly busy, 'About' is a glorified search engine which takes a while to navigate without being sent off to linked profit making websites. The information, provided by Jonathan Cluett MD uses a question-and-answer format and deals with questions like 'will my knee replacement set off airport metal detectors?' and 'do I need to take antibiotics every time I go to see the dentist?' It is patient focused but the ultimate goal is patient dollars.*