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Selected internet viewings

Welcome to the *Annals'* regular review of what's happening on the Web, what your patients are reading and what caught our eye this month.

If you wish to review web sites in your area of expertise, please E-mail your completed reviews directly to me, **Richard Gibbs**, at r.gibbs@imperial.ac.uk. Authors must NOT submit their reviews more than once.

The editors regret that they cannot enter into correspondence with authors. It may be some months before your submission is reviewed.

Sentinel node biopsy

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<http://breast-cancer-research.com/content/3/2/104>

Excellent review that not only highlights the history and evidence for sentinel node biopsy (SNB), but discusses the technical limitations, practical hurdles and accuracy of the procedure in patients with breast cancer. The site is pragmatic and well supported with its evidence base and reference list. This is a comprehensive and readily readable introduction to the subject. It is useful for clinicians and patients alike and delivers a good platform of knowledge.****

<http://www2.mdanderson.org/depts/oncolog/articles/03/9-sep/9-03-1.html>

This is an excellent introduction to the theory behind SNB, highlighting in a step-by-step fashion the patient pathway through the whole process. It explains the current applications in malignant melanoma and breast cancer, briefly introduces the procedure and highlights areas of controversy, unanswered research questions and areas of development within SNB. It is well written and is easily intelligible; however, the site lacks illustrations and operative procedural detail.****

<http://www.melanoma.sgul.ac.uk/snb.htm>

This is the official website of the UK's malignant melanoma centre at St George's Hospital in London. It is useful for clinicians wanting to gain insight into the operative stages of SNB. The site is easily navigated and clearly illustrates with photography the steps of the procedure.

This is also an excellent site for patients awaiting sentinel node biopsy and/or lymphadenectomy. Useful links to cancer help organisations are included. It includes examples of clinical lymphoscintigrams.****

<http://www.cancernews.com/category.asp?Cat=3&AID=202>

This is a succinct, patient-oriented site. It is informative, structured along the decision-making process and explains exactly what a patient will experience during the procedure. It offers useful information for the informed consent process and explains cautionary notes on patient selection, whilst informing about procedural adjuncts such as drains and physiotherapy. Its focus on breast cancer is to be somewhat limiting.***

http://www.mpip.org/tools/stager/ajcc_ref.html

This is a concise description of the way the TNM classification and AJCC cancer staging systems interlink for malignant melanoma. It illustrates how SNB impacts on staging malignancy. Although there is still conjecture over the usefulness of SNB in affecting morbidity or mortality, particularly in malignant melanoma, the clinical staging would be more useful if linked to 5-year survival figures, allowing better informed patient counselling.**

<http://www.emedicinehealth.com/articles/70039-1.asp>

A simplified overview directed at patients, with particular reference to breast cancer. This site highlights patient groups where SNB may be relatively or completely contra-indicated. It is limited in its usefulness, which is disappointing for a usually popular web resource.**

Bowel cancer

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An interesting site from the US National Cancer Institute which is part of the US Department of Health. It is of use to patients as the information related to various aspects of bowel cancer is well presented with a clear layout combined with good organisation of search results. Professionals and surgical trainees will also find it useful as it offers evidence-based reviews on screening, prevention and genetics of colorectal cancer and a formal ranking system helps the reader judge the strength of evidence reported. This is an excellent site with concise and comprehensive information on bowel cancer.****