understand. The site also offers some journal references and has in-text links to other orthopaedic conditions. There is little here to interest the clinician and it is certainly not the most exciting layout for the information presented.**

www.keywood.demon.co.uk

Created by Peter Wood past-president of the British Orthopaedic Foot Surgery Society and based at Wrightington, in the UK. This website offers a comprehensive history of the development of ankle replacement surgery including an excellent list of key references from 1976 to the present, with links to online abstracts. A gallery of ankle replacement sets includes photographs of more prostheses than you ever thought existed! Following this, a section on current awareness includes a Medline search with abstracts of all recent significant papers related to the topic from April 2004 to June 2005. This is an excellent resource for quick and easy access to the latest scientific and clinical research information for any surgeon. The site also provides patient information in the form of a leaflet and some website links.*****

Hyperhydrosis

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www.sweatfree.org.uk

This is a very simple website designed for patients with hyperhydrosis. It gives a very brief introduction to the subject and its surgical management. It is basic and to the point and certainly benefits from a 'no frills' approach. It introduces Mr Alan Cameron who is one of the UK's leading surgeons in the field of endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy and has many useful and informative links. The simplicity of this site is refreshing and does not bombard the user with excessive and often duplicated information.****

www.sweathelp.org

This is an American website from the International Hyperhydrosis Society which caters to the individual needs of the user. It has separate information links for patients, healthcare professionals and the media. The 'patient' section is written in a non-patronising, balanced and re-assuring manner which will give the user all the necessary information. The patient with this condition is often too embarrassed to talk openly about the subject or even present to their own doctor and this site will certainly remove the stigma for them. The 'healthcare professional' section gives a

very scientific, evidence-based review of the condition. It covers physiology, pathology, psychology, epidemiology and current treatments in sufficient detail to satisfy the academic surgeon. There is also a 'media' section with press releases and published articles. This is a very flexible website which is useful for all those involved in this field. It is also available in several different languages to widen its appeal.*****

www.sweaty-palms.com

This website covers all the basic details in an easy-to-use format. It suffers from too much text and one gets the impression that this is a self advertisement for a single surgeon, Dr Rafael Reisfield. The testimonials from the patients are all one-sided with no mention of their personal side-effects of the surgery. The alternatives to surgery are mentioned briefly, but in a biased manner. There is a 'possible complications and side effects' link which, for an advertising site, is objective and honest. It even mentions a paper from a respected, peer-reviewed publication for more information on the cardiovascular side effects from surgery. There is a slide show which introduces the patient to the theatre environment but offers little more. Overall, a disappointing site.**

www.hyperhydrosis.com

A first-class, collaborative website written by various experts from around the world. It is a bright, user-friendly site that is ultimately designed for patient and clinician. The surgical section is backed up by evidence-based reports and publications which leave the user in no doubt that endoscopic thoracic sympathectomy is a safe, reliable and ultimately effective procedure. There is a unique question and answer section in which the same questions are posed to various different surgeons. It is interesting for the user to compare answers and the surgeons become instantly accessible to the user. Each sub section is balanced, objective and informative. Overall, highly recommended.*****

www.rcsed.ac.uk/journal/svol2_6/206001.html

A very nice, concise clinical review of hyperhydrosis and treatments available. It cites 50 references to validate the points that are being made. This will appeal to the clinician who wants a balanced review of the subject area. There is a 'quiz' at the end of the publication to increase interest.****

www.sympathectomy.co.uk

This website is designed for patients seeking surgical options to treat hyperhydrosis. It is well designed, attractive and simple in its format. The question and answer section is particularly useful in that it addresses a whole range of genuine concerns from scar size and side effects to cost of the procedure. The surgery link is well explained without too much emphasis on the precise anatomy and there is a downloadable video to explain further and to re-assure. There is a useful links page which gives patient perspectives and non-surgical treatments. Overall, an attractive, easy to navigate site.***