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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.

Renal transplantation

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The first ever reported transplant was of a cornea and took place in the Czech Republic in 1905. Since then, a number of different organs have been transplanted, and the types of organs being transplanted are ever increasing. Of all organ transplants, the best known is the renal transplant, of which the first successful operation was performed in Boston in 1954, and the first UK living donor kidney transplant in 1960. Currently, more than 2000 patients per year in the UK receive a kidney transplant. It is regarded as the gold standard for renal replacement therapy. Although renal transplants are now commonplace, it is still a complex topic and below we review some of the currently available websites.

UK Transplant

<http://www.uktransplant.org.uk>

A well-structured and very user-friendly website aimed at patients as well as clinicians. There is good information about transplants in general with a section of frequently asked questions covering all that a patient and their relatives would want to know if they needed a transplant, including waiting times, locations of renal transplant units, success rates, allocation of organs and, of course, legislation. It also provides statistics and convenient links to other transplant websites and is a useful tool for those working in the health service. There are also sections covering the latest transplant news, campaigns encouraging people to become organ donors and life stories from patients who have received transplants.****

Transplant Tolerance

<http://www.transplant-tolerance.org.uk>

This website is about an on-going project on renal transplantation in Europe. It aims to identify patients who are not on immunosuppressive therapy and yet do not reject their transplanted kidney in order to find out which factors lead to the development of transplant tolerance, to negate the need for long-term immunosuppressive medication in future transplant recipients. It is aimed mainly at doctors seeking their help to recruit patients for their project and the website mainly focuses on promoting the project and its aims and not much else. It does not give very much background information or insight into the topic of renal transplants and is too full of medical jargon for the general public.**

Renal transplant imaging

<http://www.radiology.co.uk/srs-x/tutors/renaltx/ren.htm>

This well-referenced website with good images and diagrams is aimed at clinicians. It contains sound information on patient selection and preparation, surgical technique, and investigation, diagnosis and management of complications following renal transplantation. The examples on using diagnostic imaging techniques and explanations are particularly useful for surgical trainees working in renal transplant units to understand the management of postoperative complications. The only criticism is that this website has not been updated recently.****

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

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWINGS

UK NFK

<http://www.kidney.org.uk/Medical-Info/transplant.html>

This is a UK charity website 'run by kidney patients for kidney patients'. It contains a section on renal transplantation, which gives good general coverage of renal transplantation in layman terms. It also addresses the psychosocial aspects of post-transplant care, including psychological stress and sexual problems that patients might encounter. There is also a small section on patients' experiences of renal transplants with real-life stories.***

Addenbrooke's Hospital renal transplant programme

<http://www.cambridge-transplant.org.uk/program/renal/diet.htm>

A useful website on dietary advice for renal transplant patients run by a teaching hospital. It is written by dietitians and highlights what patients can eat and what food groups they should avoid, for example, grapefruit should be avoided because it interferes with immunosuppressants such as cyclosporin and tacrolimus. It is useful for both patients and clinicians and includes a contact number for queries.**

Organ recovery systems

<http://www.organ-recovery.com/lifeport.php>

A website produced by the manufacturer Organ recovery systems. This company manufactures LifePort®, which is a kidney preservation system that allows continuous perfusion of the retrieved kidney, and continuous monitoring of the physiological status of the kidney. It is believed to help increase graft preservation time and reduce delayed graft function following transplantation. Unfortunately, this website is focused purely on promoting the product and lacks explanation of how the LifePort® system works. There are links to some of the ongoing trials, which is useful for those interested in keeping up-to-date with recent developments in kidney preservations.*

Oesophageal cancer

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INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS

National Cancer Institute

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/esophageal>
The National Cancer Institute aims to support and co-ordinate

cancer research, education and training in the US. Its website is a useful tool for professionals dealing with oesophageal cancer. It provides referenced articles, with brief summaries at the start of each section and gives the latest details for all aspects of management. There is extensive, up-to-date research that would help all levels of surgeon and allied health professional. This site can be searched by anyone with internet experience, but is not particularly user friendly and, at times, too many irrelevant links hide the important ones. Overall, a decent site that could do with some web designer improvement.****

National Library for Health

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/cancer/SearchResults.aspx?tabID=288&catID=8146>

This NHS-based website aims to provide guidance and evidence for best possible treatment strategies on all medical conditions. The section on oesophageal cancer initially looks limited with only a few banners for browsing. However, within these headings is an array of up-to-date guidelines from the British Association of Surgical Oncology, NICE, Royal College of Pathologists and Department of Health. There are also links to full articles that cover all forms of oesophageal cancer management, including various systematic reviews from different publishers over the last 7 years. This is not a quick website to use, involving many external web links and PDF files; however, it may be useful for trainee surgeons as an easy source for recent guidelines and evidence.***

Emedicine

<http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic741.htm>

<http://www.emedicine.com/radio/topic271.htm>

This American based website offers various articles on oesophageal cancer and related subjects that are easy to read and presented in a logical fashion. It summarises the relevant information and data, with explanations of surgical procedures and useful radiological images. Despite being concise it manages to cover a large amount of information in referenced articles that are a suitable aid for surgical trainee and medical student.***

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Cancer Research UK

<http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk/help/default.asp?page=4478>

This is an excellent website designed for patients with any form of cancer. The oesophageal section is easy to navigate through, with clearly labelled pages that link together nicely. The text is well written, factually accurate and remains non-patronising. It covers all aspects of oesophageal cancer with good detail for all stages of the disease. In particular, it explains key points regarding