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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.

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

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www.websurg.com

This website is a product of the European Institute of Telesurgery (EITS) in Strasbourg, France. Extensive viewing of several laparoscopic procedures via video format is readily available. There are numerous different videos of laparoscopic cholecystectomy with added commentary, which are relatively easy to follow. Gallbladder and biliary tree anatomy is also demonstrated via video format as a teaching aid with anatomical variations listed and described. There is expert opinion from various surgeons on the controversial aspects of this procedure. This site has a quick and easy registration process allowing access to all forms of laparoscopic surgery across multiple surgical specialities. Overall, this site is effective both for the novice and experienced trainee. The ease in use and extensive video-aided descriptions on performing the operation from start to finish makes this a must view for any trainee assisting or performing a laparoscopic cholecystectomy.*****

www.laparoscopy.net/chole/chole1.htm

This is a well-designed website which is both systematic and detailed with regards to gallstone disease management and laparoscopic cholecystectomy. A Californian surgeon, Dr Qilici, has adapted this site from his book regarding interventional laparoscopy. It contains a simple, usable protocol for the management of gallstone disease. The procedure is described extensively with good diagrams, which aids the step-by-step explanation of this surgery. It is free to use and does not require registration thus rendering it worth visiting.***

www.laparoscopy.com/pictures/lap_chol.html

There are good pictures of an intra-operative case of laparoscopic cholecystectomy on this page. However, it does not give a step-by-step account of how to perform the procedure. The pictures do not have any comprehensive detailing/labeling regarding the anatomy. Thus, for the novice trainee, it may be difficult to follow. The site itself is easy to use but is unlikely to provide much information for either the new trainee or the experienced surgeon.**

<http://www.daysurgeryuk.org/content/files/Handbooks/LaparoscopicCholecystectomy.pdf>

This PDF document gives a detailed overview of the factors surrounding daycase laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The document was prepared by two British surgeons and an anaesthetist. It does not provide any information on performing the procedure but centres around the peri-operative management of the patients involved. This includes patient selection for the day-case operation. Its aim and use is certainly restricted to units attempting to establish a day-case laparoscopic service. The junior surgeon or nurse practitioner that perform pre-assessment clinics should definitely be encouraged to view this document as it has a relevant section.**

<http://www.laparoscopyhospital.com>

This website was designed by an Indian surgeon, Dr Mishra, who runs courses in laparoscopic training. The site serves as an advertisement to his courses, but is also a training website for the surgeon. It provides a limited, written description of the procedure. However, there is an excellent slide-show detailing the operation with both diagrams and pictures to support each step. There is a video that is easy to view but is not supported by any

commentary thus is limited in its efficacy. The site excels in its detailed account, via slide-show and video format with commentary, of the differing laparoscopic instruments that are used and essentially demonstrates how to use them. It is an easy site to navigate and provides a useful insight to the procedure. Definitely worth viewing.****

<http://www.gallbladder-surgery.info/download/flash.html>

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons gives information regarding laparoscopic gallbladder removal. This macromedia flash presentation is solely directed at patients suffering from biliary symptoms awaiting the operation. It is an excellent presentation that gives an easy-to-understand, but detailed, presentation to patients. It answers most questions that patients may have. The clinician will find this a useful site to recommend to their patients suffering from biliary disease. The visual aids must surely give patients a better understanding of the disease/surgery.***

<http://www.edu.rcsed.ac.uk/HowIDoit/laparoscopic%20cholecystectomy.htm>

This article by Professor Cushieri is found on the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh surgical skills and knowledge website. This document provides a good insight into performing the surgery with the aid of diagrams. It is well worth viewing this as a quick guide to performing the procedure.***

Rosacea and rhinophyma

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<http://www.patient.co.uk/showdoc/40001034/>

Using the Google search engine, this is an easily accessible website. It has an in-depth area called patient plus, ostensibly written for doctors, which was by far the most informative part of the website. Overall, the site is well laid out, with good colour photographs, and presented in a format familiar to most doctors. It could perhaps have been more descriptive and optimistic in the treatment of rhinophyma, although it is well referenced.***

www.plasticsurgery4u.com/procedure_folder/rhinophyma_folder/rhinophyma.html

This site was set-up by Dr Michael Bermant, Board Certified by The American Board of Plastic Surgery. The site appears fairly lightweight and lacking in authority and some of the information is erroneous, *i.e.* 'Rhinophyma has been associated with many causes such as the over-consumption of alcohol'. The site does, however, discuss treatment options, concentrating on surgical management, with good before and after photos of dermaplaning and dermabrasion, but glosses over the role of lasers in treatment

of rosacea and rhinophyma. On the whole, it is quite a poor site considering the prominence it is given in search engine hits, with some information omitted or just plain wrong.*

<http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/articles/article.aspx?articleId=325§ionId=1998>

The NHS Direct site is set-up in a clear and easily navigable fashion. It is relatively comprehensive, although there is little here to recommend it to medical practitioners. The site certainly performs well as a basic starting point for someone researching rosacea, but does little to explain rhinophyma, and the paucity of photographic information is a definite weakness.***

www.cosmeticprocedureguide.ca/rhinophyma.html

An excellent site, part of the Skin Care Guide site, it provides information on the causes and effects of rosacea and rhinophyma in a way that is accessible to both doctor and patient. It explains the procedures involved and, though it has an understandable tilt towards surgical intervention, covers them well. One criticism is the omission of non-surgical interventions for rosacea.****

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001037.htm

This site is very brief and concise, without erroneous information, but anyone researching the topic will, of necessity, need to look elsewhere.**

<http://www.emedicine.com/derm/topic377.htm>

This article written by Agnieszka Kupiec-Banasikowska MD, Consulting Staff, Division of Dermatology, Georgetown University Medical Center and edited by multiple dermatological luminaries provides, as one might expect, a very thorough and comprehensive explanation of the aetiology, treatment and prognosis of rosacea, but less so for rhinophyma. Its strength is also perhaps its only weakness, in so far as the dense medical language used would make it difficult for a layman to interpret, and may initially appear forbidding. While separate articles on dermabrasion, and laser resurfacing within the site are expertly written, they are quite general about which conditions may be treated, and anyone looking specifically for information regarding rhinophyma may well be overwhelmed.***

www.rosacea.org/

This website, which is home to The National Rosacea Society, is on first appearance a poor attempt at an educational website, plastered with obtrusive banners and superficial taglines which can be immediately off-putting. With perseverance, there is access to information for both physician and patient in separate areas on the site. While it may be idealistic to expect websites without the invasive presence of advertisements, they negatively impacted on the image of the site, and lessened the feeling of authenticity of the information presented.**

www.rosacea.co.uk

Any hopes that a British website would be free of pervasive advertisements were quickly dashed. This quite amateurish