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

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWINGS

peri-operative requirements of treatment. Navigation is very straightforward. There have also been additional pages added for healthcare professionals with links to key papers on the subject from such eminent authors as Bascom and Karydakakis. The photo-gallery of various types of disease and wounds is a great resource to surgical trainees facing examinations. Highly recommended for both patients and doctors.*****

NHS Direct

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/en.aspx?articleID=285

The section on pilonidal disease from the NHS website is brief and to the point. Three sections are written on introduction, symptoms and treatment, but little detail is given. No diagrams or pictures are shown; however, as this site is probably aimed at giving patients the bare facts, they would probably be surplus to requirements. The only link to a website for more information (the Clinical Knowledge summaries at the National Library for Health) is, however, currently defunct.**

Total hip replacement

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American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS)

http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/fact/thr_report.cfm?Thread_ID=504&topcategory=Hip

This American website provides extensive information for patients undergoing total hip replacement surgery. The information provided is comprehensive and includes the out-patient department consultation, hip anatomy, conditions leading to the need for hip replacement, basic descriptions of the procedures, the events leading up to the day of surgery and the postoperative period. Complications of the procedure are also discussed, providing patients with the necessary information to ask important questions and to give informed consent. The site provides links to related sites for quick and easy navigation, but it could be improved with the use of more pictures and diagrams, making the site easier to read and understand.***

BUPA

http://hcd2.bupa.co.uk/fact_sheets/html/Hip_replacement.html

This site provides information for patients undergoing hip replacement surgery in a concise fact sheet, which is easy to read and understand. It has a similar structure to the AAOS website but is very user-friendly and includes an excellent animation outlining the steps of the operation, which explains the relevant steps far more easily than text. The website provides core information on hip replacement surgery with links to other sites,

giving the reader the opportunity to read in depth about the technical aspects of the procedure if desired.****

Medicine Net

http://www.medicinenet.com/total_hip_replacement/article.htm

Whilst providing similar information to the aforementioned two sites, this American site has a completely different layout. The information is divided into a sleep-inducing 6 pages of text containing only one picture. A small proportion of each page is allocated to information on hip replacement surgery, the majority unfortunately being dedicated to advertisements and links to other health-related sites, which may or may not be related to hip replacements. Patients will find this site extremely tedious and frustrating to navigate.**

eHealthMD

http://www.ehealthmd.com/library/totalhipreplacement/THR_what.html

This site has a similar layout to the Medicine Net site, but somehow manages to spread the information over a staggering 15 pages. Despite the initial fear of pages of tedious reading, the site was actually pleasant to read and easy to navigate. The pages were largely well designed with key facts and figures relating to hip replacements being highlighted. In particular, the patient information on postoperative exercises was particularly well written and easy to comprehend. The only criticism is the lack of references and evidence for the figures quoted being correct.***

Mayo Clinic

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hip-replacement/AR00028>

This American site takes a more concise approach, with a well-written short paragraph on each aspect of hip replacement surgery, including indications for surgery, types of replacements, postoperative expectations and possible complications. This site may not be as extensive as the previous sites but it covers the important points a patient would be expected to know after an out-patient consultation. Once again, the site includes very few pictures and the site would benefit from more related links.***

Best Treatments

<http://www.besttreatments.co.uk/btuk/electsurgery/18618.jsp>

This UK site is based upon clinical evidence and it provides information for patients from the *BMJ*. This is the best site reviewed so far and it provides valuable information on hip replacement in a structured manner. Where this site triumphs over the others is that it refers to NICE guidelines, which is particularly useful for UK patients. The pages are well designed and extremely easy to read without having to move from one page to another. The site also has almost 20 references, which some patients, medical students and junior doctors may find useful. This is an excellent site and is definitely the pick of the bunch.*****