This issue features

1. Hypospadias
2. Benign prostatic hypertrophy
3. Planter fasciitis

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H AL-KHATEEB, R DEGA

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.

Hypospadias

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www.duj.com/hypospadias.html

A good introduction to a complicated problem. Compiled by the division of urology at Boston's children's hospital, this site provides a concise and clear overview even for those who know nothing about the condition. The content is orientated to a patient audience but is useful for all that come across this condition. Addresses frequently asked questions and answers them concisely. It may be geared for patients' families but provides a very useful insight for doctors regarding the main issues and concerns for the families of affected children.***

www.urologychannel.com/pediatric/hypospadias.shtml

Aimed at surgeons in training, this site provides a textbook approach to hypospadias. The subject is broken down into distinct subheadings that takes one from aetiology all the way through to the postoperative course. It provides useful links to associated conditions. The one great failing is a complete absence of imagery. Clear descriptions of the embryological events occurring to cause this condition are no substitute for good pictures! A relatively bland format but would probably get

you through a short question and answer session on the subject quite nicely.***

www.emedicine.com/ped/topic1136.htm

Once again, e-medicine comes out with the goods providing comprehensive and detailed information for a medical audience. Of particular note is an excellent interpretation of what is often baffling embryology. It leaves you feeling that you can actually make sense of what other sites attempt to explain in a rather complicated and long-winded manner. It is aimed at surgical trainees and other medical professionals and, therefore, goes out of its way to go through an exhaustive list of potential clinical associations and the different surgical techniques regarding treatment. The literature given is consolidated with a set of helpful pre- and intra-operative images to tie it all together.****

www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/factsheets/families/f000272

Great Ormond Street Hospital has produced this excellent fact sheet aimed at the parents of children with hypospadias. The site goes through the most frequently asked questions in the outpatient setting and ends by walking the parents through those first few weeks after their child's surgery, a failing of many of the other sites.****

www.sickkids.ca/childphysiology/cpwp/Genital/GenitalHypospadias.htm

Fantastic interactive pictures! The text probably verges on being a little too concise, but this site more than makes up for it by the wealth of information provided by the interactive imagery. The embryology is made simple and having spent five minutes navigating around this easy to browse site, you will not only know all there is to know about the aetiology, but you will be able to classify the different types of hypospadias. Well worth a visit.****

www.thefetus.net/page.php?id=570

The best site has been saved until last for this Belgian export. The site's layout is a breath of fresh air from many of the standardised formats and uses great photographs, radiological images along with easy-to-interpret schematic representations. It gets the standard questions out of the way quickly and concisely and then takes you through a case report to bring out all the subtleties and complexities involved in the management. It ends with an exhaustive list of all the associated syndromes.*****