RADIOLOGY TEACHING MATERIAL.....

Radiology teaching material: website review

Being a doctor, whether a physician or a surgeon, entails a good knowledge of radiology. Not all of us will acquire the same level of diagnostic interpretive skills as a radiologist, but having basic radiology knowledge will help clinicians to a great extent in their daily duties. In this article, we have reviewed six useful websites with free online radiology teaching material that will be of benefit to all clinicians.

We performed a “google” search on the internet with the term “radiology teaching files” and this yielded 721 000 hits. We reviewed sites that seemed to be educationally orientated. Here are six of the most helpful sites that we consider to be useful to the junior medical practitioner. At the end, each site is rated out of five stars with five being the highest mark achieved. Our review criteria is not strictly based on the Darmoni principle but on our expectations as junior doctors and what we deem to be appropriate for our level. These encompass the following:

- Regular update of evidence-based knowledge
- Ability to navigate the website with ease
- Clarity in explanation
- Content that is appropriate for a medically trained individual
- Ability to make a contribution to the website
- A trustworthy and reliable source of knowledge

<http://www.med-ed.virginia.edu/courses/rad/>

This is a top resource from the University of Virginia. It covers various topics and radiological modalities. The musculoskeletal section is brilliant, particularly for doctors from the accident and emergency department. There is a good tutorial on interpreting computed tomography scans of the head. The tutorial on ultrasonography is well presented and covers the important pathologies—for example, testicular pain. The paediatric section is extensive and important pathology is explained well. The gastrointestinal radiology material is useful for gastroenterologists and trainee surgeons. The layout is a step-by-step format, making learning easier. The overall quality of the images is good, suitable for doctors of all specialties and a good introduction for radiology juniors. A must-see website. ****

<http://www.radiology.co.uk/srs-x/index.htm>

The Scottish Radiology Society has produced this good resource that provides some good learning material. It is mainly orientated at junior radiology trainees. There are various subsections on the site. The tutorial has only three topics, but they are good. The tutorial on head trauma should be read by all junior doctors. The small collection of cases is a good read. The medical conditions section is excellent. It is useful preparatory material for the FRCR exams. What is unique about this site is that it allows others to make contributions—for example, cases or medical conditions. A good read. ****

<http://brighamrad.harvard.edu/education/online/tcd/tcd.html>

This is an average website. Lots of common cases are presented, with short discussions on the case. Cases can be searched by imaging modality, anatomical area, keyword or a combination of these variables. Image quality is reasonable. Good for medical students and house officers, but there are better sites on the internet. Not bad but could do with some improvement. ***

<http://www.sonoworld.com/Sonoworld/Chapter/ShowBook.aspx>

This is an excellent free ultrasonography website. From the level of detail it seems to be orientated towards radiology trainees, but ideally can be used by all junior and senior doctors. The images are of good quality and ultrasonographic signs as well as how to perform the scan are explained. Topics on the abdomen, pelvis, vascular system and even obstetrics are covered in great detail and clarity. Another good feature is that the normal anatomy is shown.

There is nothing really to criticise here. This site is certainly recommended for those who wish to have a deeper understanding of ultrasound imaging. ****

http://www.mypacs.net/repos/mpv3_repo/static/m/Home/

This is a very extensive website. It is an international resource with contributions from all over the world, mainly from radiologists. Registration is free, allowing you to contribute cases. Common radiology cases are discussed in addition to rare ones. This site is designed for those with good clinical background knowledge. Basics are not discussed.

Many features are on offer—for example, training mode, virtual folders and stand-alone viewing. The image quality is average. Overall, a good website but can be a bit frustrating to use. ***

<http://www.auntminnie.com>

What a title! An Aunt Minnie is someone you know right away when you see her, a term doctors use that is a lot like that expression, "If it walks like a duck ... it must be duck" or, in this case, imaging findings that are both perfectly obvious and pathognomonic of a disease. A common saying in the world of radiology.

This is a premier online information, transaction and education site for those in the medical imaging field. Although this website is aimed primarily at radiologists, it provides good learning material that is beneficial for the medical and surgical trainee.

The education section contains clinical cases that start with a brief history, and images from basic to more advanced radiological investigations. The clinical cases promote the formulation of a list of differential diagnoses and an awareness of the progression from simple to more complex imaging techniques. Each case study ends with a diagnosis and notes on that condition. This site is free to use and is an invaluable study tool.****

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