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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.

Hallux valgus

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PATIENT ORIENTED

British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society

http://www.bofss.org.uk/html/hallux_valgus.shtml

This site is primarily surgeon oriented; however, it does have a section geared towards the public on foot/ankle conditions and their respective treatments. Although the visual layout of information is presented clearly, the information regarding hallux valgus is quite brief and lacks the comprehensive nature found on other websites. The website does not offer great links to sources of further information but focuses more on providing the reader with links to other various health-oriented societies.**

MedicineNet.com

<http://www.medicinenet.com/bunions/article.htm>

MedicineNet.com is owned and operated by WebMD. It has a user-friendly interface and provides an interactive medical forum where readers can get information and participate in a Q&A section. Although the conditions discussed span across more than

one page, there is a unique glossary page that coherently explains any medical jargon found within the article. This website focuses more on medical therapy for symptom control rather than on the details of the surgical treatment involved.***

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

[http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/booklet/](http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/booklet/view_report.cfm?Thread_ID=7&topcategory=Foot)

[view_report.cfm?Thread_ID=7&topcategory=Foot](http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/booklet/view_report.cfm?Thread_ID=7&topcategory=Foot)

This is an excellent portal for patients seeking advice and information on any orthopaedic conditions and their treatments. It provides the reader with clear and comprehensive advice accompanied by useful schematic diagrams that aid in describing hallux valgus. The website also offers non-surgical tips such as advice on shoe wear and comfort. It also poses questions to patients regarding suitability for surgical treatment and what they want to achieve from such surgery. Visual aids help illustrate different procedure types that may be undertaken depending on the degree of deformity. The recovery section and tips on postoperative exercises provide patients with useful advice on dealing with this stage. This website is highly recommended to meet patient needs and aid in clarifying their concerns.*****

Orthogate

<http://www.orthogate.org/patient-education/foot/bunions-hallux-valgus.html>

This is a very informative website that lays out the information in a clear and concise manner. It provides readers with a section on patient education that explains medical terms in a simplified way accompanied by excellent illustrations that facilitate the readers' understanding. The website explains the relevant anatomy of the foot, the causes of hallux valgus, the surgical treatment options (although not complete), in addition to having a section on postoperative rehabilitation. It is a very good gateway for providing patients with the relevant information they need in the pre-operative period. This website is an excellent source for patient information.****

DynoMed

http://www.dynomed.com/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/foot_and_ankle/Bunion.html

This is an American patient education company that provides free information on orthopaedic conditions and procedures. The

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

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWING

information is set out in a clear manner, is jargon-free and provides a simple introduction on the specified condition. However, the content of the site is quite dry and there is a lack of visual aid to enhance patient understanding. Overall, the site offers good advice to patients and briefly outlines available treatment options for hallux valgus in very simple terms.***

SURGEON ORIENTED

eMedicine

<http://www.emedicine.com/orthoped/topic126.htm>

This is an invaluable resource for any surgical trainee. It is laid out in a logical manner, with subheadings for background, aetiology, pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, work-up, treatment and discussion including complications. It provides detailed and comprehensive information regarding the clinical examination of the foot and the radiological interpretation and diagnosis of hallux valgus. The treatment section describes the numerous osteotomies that are used in hallux valgus repair. The site also includes anatomical diagrams, clinical photographs and radiological evidence of disease and repair with the various options discussed. This excellent site is highly recommended.*****

The Institute of Foot and Ankle Reconstruction at Mercy

http://www.mdmercy.com/footandankle/conditions/bigtoe/hallux_valgus.html

This website is from Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore, USA. It provides a good explanation of the condition with radiological evidence, angle types and measurements as well as the various procedures that can be undertaken. It is good in briefly explaining the different procedures with X-rays to support them. The site also has a 'Research and Publication' section, which includes an extensively detailed article regarding the aetiology and pathogenesis of hallux valgus in addition to an article conveying the potential complications of surgical correction and its management, both heavily referenced. Furthermore, a vertical tool bar of related conditions is present on the page, which may aid the clinician in his/her differential diagnosis with respect to difficult complicated cases. This is a valuable website for both the orthopaedic trainee and orthopaedic surgeon.****

Wheelless' Textbook of Orthopedics

http://www.wheellesonline.com/ortho/hallux_valgus_and_bunion_surgery

Wheelless' *Textbook of Orthopedics* in affiliation with Duke University Medical Center claims to be 'the most comprehensive, unparalleled, dynamic online medical textbook in existence with 11,000 pages and more than 5000 images'. It is a constantly updated textbook that provides the orthopaedic surgeon with extensive information about musculoskeletal conditions including sections on bones, joints muscles and nerves. Most sections have abundant links to abstracts on the topics presented with intra-operative and

radiological images to accompany them. Although the layout is not very user friendly with small font and a monotonous backdrop, the information covers all areas of the topic at hand and is one of the best online companions for any orthopaedic surgeon.*****

University of Washington Department of Radiology

<http://www.rad.washington.edu/anatomy/modules/HalluxValgus/HalluxValgus.html>

This is a very good website that tackles hallux valgus from a radiological perspective. It contains a clear definition and a section on pathogenesis, and thoroughly covers in detail radiological findings in both pre- and postoperative patients – including the various techniques of fixation. It also has good schematic diagrams of the position of the metatarsal heads and of the sesamoid bones and the various severities of the condition. All documentation is described and accompanied by abnormal as well as normal radiographs. The site includes useful references.****

Urology

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Urology remains one of the faster-paced surgical specialities with rapid patient turn-over. There also appears to be constantly evolving patient management with many new drugs and trials appearing almost daily. In the modern world of internet access for all, it is vitally important that we can all keep up-to-date with new developments. Several urological websites aimed at professionals are reviewed.

www.baus.org.uk

The British Urological Society website has a very user-friendly layout allowing easy navigation. It is aimed at urologists although it has a link to allow members of the public to locate a urologist. The best aspect of this site is the link to many other related sites some of which are free, unlike this site which charges a significant joining fee. Unfortunately, without membership, this site has very limited content. The 'procedure specific consent forms' which unzipped to produce hundreds of unnamed files containing urology consent forms was especially disappointing.*

www.urotoday.com

This American site aimed at urologists provides some excellent resources for education and training. Although users need to register for full access to the site, this is free, quick and relatively painless. The home page provides links to *British Journal of*