****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.****

Wheeless' Textbook of Orthopedics

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

Wheeless' *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*

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Urology articles, recent headlines/articles, conference reports and a free online CME course provided via Harvard Medical School. A particularly useful resource, for those who like to be contacted by phone, provides recent articles and conference reports directly to the member's mobile phone. Another valuable source of education is the slide library with PowerPoint presentations on various topics including step-by-step guides on some urological procedures. These slides may be downloaded free, but this may take some time. The other facilities provided include links to many urological topics from prostate cancer to robotics. Each of these topics has subsections on current guidelines, epidemiology, and uses articles to expand on the topic further. This is an excellent site, well worth a visit with easy-to-navigate pages.*****

www.urosource.com

Another excellent educational resource for urologists. There is a 'quick' reference section on most urological topics. Within each topic, there are further subsections on guidelines, key articles, conference reports/interviews and expert reviews. The home page provides links to the American urological and European Association of Urology (EAU) meetings. It also has sections on education, key articles, conference reports and a video library. The EAU link provides current guidelines, up-coming meetings, and a facility enabling users to submit abstracts. There is a further link allowing users to use view abstracts from various meetings. There are various papers and journals that can be accessed from this site; however, this is limited to registered users (free). The best facility on this site is the education section, which has a link to European School of Urology (ESU) courses. This provides a variety of slide shows and articles on many topics useful for urologists and doctors or surgeons in general. Some of the topics covered include 'how to write a paper for publication', 'ultrasound for urologists', 'laparoscopy for beginners'. These are all easy to read and very informative with excellent pictures and slides. This European site is a must see for all urologists; a one stop site.*****

www.uroweb.org

This site is run by the European Association of Urology. Apart from excellent guidelines that can be easily downloaded from the site there is very little content. The layout is bright and easy to navigate but very sparse. Despite this, a unique feature of the site is the research section that provides information on current projects

and allows the user to join selected projects as an investigator. The other disadvantage of this site is the need for registration.*

<http://kidney.niddk.nih.gov/>

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/kidney/nkudic.htm>

This American site, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has a simple layout providing an 'A-Z' of urological and renal diseases. It also provides useful statistics of these diseases but with an obvious American bias. Although aimed at professionals and patients, it is too basic for most professionals. However, it may be an excellent site to recommend to patients and their relatives.**

www.medscape.com

This is a general medical website aimed at the professional with a urology section. The site requests registration (free) before allowing access to any useful information. The urology home page provides expert viewpoints, various CME topics, excellent case reports, access to publications and news including that from industry. There are also easy-to-read reports on a number of topics and a link to journals and references. Last, there is a link to AUA conferences, guidelines, overview and news. This is a good site but the general layout is poor due to lack of pictures and colours. It feels like a dull textbook with answers that one is too disinterested to find. Many of the resources were better offered elsewhere.***

www.medmatrix.org/

This is another general medical website with a urology section. It is aimed mainly at professionals with a small subsection for patients. The home page has subsections on searches, news, full text/multimedia, journals, textbooks, procedures and patient education. The search function allows access to free articles via Medline on urological diseases and procedures. The full text/multimedia section is an excellent revision tool with tutorials, case reports, articles, X-rays and slide-shows on a variety of interesting topics. These, though aimed at professionals, may be more appropriate for junior doctors and medical students. The journal section provides links to the *Journal of Urology* and *BMC Urology*; registration is required for the *Journal of Urology* with a fee for full text. The best resource on this site is the procedure section that provides video and slide show pictures of radical prostatectomy and laparoscopic nephrectomy. This is a useful site for links to other urology sites with a few interesting and unique features.***