DASH Outcome Measure

www.dash.iwh.on.ca

DASH or 'Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand' score is devised partly by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. This is a patient-filled questionnaire designed to measure functional outcomes. The site is straightforward and easy to orientate through. As the title of the website suggests, it only refers to the DASH outcome score and the shortened version, the QuickDASH. Both are available through the site; however, a manual is required to interpret the scores and a small fee is levied for this.***

Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score

www.koos.nu

This is a collective site for several measures focused at lower limb morbidity. The site also includes the Foot and Ankle Outcome score (FAOS), the Hip Disability and Osteoarthritis Outcome score (HAOS), and Rheumatoid and Arthritis Outcome Score (RAOS). The site is simply laid out and all scores are easy to access in several different languages. The authors also provide an Excel spreadsheet to input your scores making this site well rounded and easy to use.***

Peyronie's disease

JASPAL S PHULL

Urology Research Fellow, Royal United Hospital, Bath, UK

Peyronie first described this condition as 'rosary beads of scar tissue to cause an upward curvature of the penis during erection'.¹ Essentially, it is an acquired disorder of the tunica albuginea, characterised by a fibrous plaque. This may be associated with penile curvature, painful erection and erectile dysfunction. The prevalence of the disease may be as high as 3.2%.² Management is either non-surgical or surgical for severe symptomatic cases.

Peyronies.org

<http://www.peyronies.org/>

This refreshing site has a historical perspective with an etching of François de la Peyronie on the home page! The illustrations are clear and labelled well. The eMail forum is easy to access and the links to related sites are confined to a separate page. This site is suited to both doctor and patient alike. All in all, this is a brilliant website for this condition.*****

Peyronie's disease

<http://www.peyroniesdisease.co.uk/>

This is a high quality website that is somewhat in its infancy. Some of the pages are incomplete, but the sections relating to the disease and the management are excellent, with clear illustrations. Each page is free from non-Peyronie's related material. There are some helpful links on the site; unfortunately, half of them are not running as yet. Despite the fact the site is incomplete, it promises to be a first rate website with excellent background information and easy navigation.****

Urology Channel

<http://www.urologychannel.com/peyronies/index.shtml>

This sponsored website is designed by Healthcommunities.com an American on-line service for patients and doctors, with easy links to a variety of other Healthcommunities speciality websites. The overview is concise and clear, with some reference to medical and anatomical jargon. Although the subject is divided by headings that link to another page, this seems to work quite well – I imagine a patient will not feel swamped by a full screen of continuous text. An enduring criticism of this sponsored site is the busy appearance to each webpage. Sponsors' links are placed literally in the middle of each section. An offer to Join Our Forum and to Stay Updated via eMails is available, but requires registration. A couple of inoffensive line drawings may complete what is otherwise an easy-to-navigate website. It is unlikely to be well suited to the experienced urologist or trainee.**

bbc.co.uk

http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/ask_the_doctor/peyronies.shtml

A straightforward description of the condition, its diagnosis and management by Dr Trisha Macnair (a freelance medical journalist with a medical background). It is set in the style of a response to a patient enquiring about the disease. The prose is broken down by subheadings 'The causes', 'Treatment' and 'Surgery'. One might easily imagine it is a script from the perfect out-patient consultation. The lack of specific technical points means the site is better suited for patients. Nevertheless, the broad outline of the condition is not at all patronising to the professional or enthusiastic amateur alike. This section is in the 'Ask the Doctor' section of the BBC website. It is easy to navigate back to the search page with a subject index. This website is exactly what you would expect from the BBC – perfect grammar, plain English and free.***

Andromeda Andrology Centre

<http://www.peyroniesdisease.org/>

This site is run by an Indian group based at Hyderabad. The site seems more suited to a medical audience with blunt medical descriptions and quite a lot of jargon. Once again, the historical perspective (a single line explaining who Peyronie was) feels like the authors are keen to share as much as possible about this condition with us. The Krishnamurthi penile dorsal flap operation is referred to, and there is even a downloadable PDF – with fully illustrated operative instructions. The YouTube links that outline the surgical technique are quite impressive. This site is free to use, and is better suited to the medical profession than patients.****

Andrology Australia

<http://www.andrologyaustralia.org/pageContent.asp?pageCode=FSPEY>

This is an Australian Government funded initiative. The site is well laid out and easy to navigate. The site is aimed at patients more than professionals. The presence of a well-labelled illustration complements this easy-to-follow website. It provides limited detail regarding the specifics of treatment, but would be a clear reference for patients keen to learn more about this condition. As a medical research tool this site is limited, but for patients and relatives it would be ideal.****

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

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWING

References

1. de la Peyronie F. Sur quelques obstacles, qui s'opposent à l'éjaculation naturelle de la semence. *Mém Acad R Chir* 1743; 1: 425–34.
2. Schwarzer U, Sommer F, Klotz T, Braun M, Reifenrath B, Engelmann U. The prevalence of Peyronie's disease: results of a large survey. *BJU Int* 2001; **88**: 727–30.

Virtual colonography

ANGHARAD EYNON, GREGORY MATAKA, ROBIN SIL

Department of Radiology, Macclesfield District General Hospital,
Macclesfield, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Angharad Eynon. E: angharade@hotmail.com

RadiologyInfo

www.radiologyinfo.org

This site is described as the radiology information site for patients. It is designed to answer questions relating to radiological procedures and available therapies. It is a well presented and clearly laid out site that allows the viewer easy access to its content. There are links to a video clip of a 'Virtual Colonography' examination along with images of the CT equipment used. There is a glossary of terms for the lay-person along with a succinct summary of the risks and benefits of the procedure including brief explanations of the complications (e.g. perforation and radiation). No mention is made, however, of using intravenous contrast during the procedure. There are limited links to sites with information regarding colorectal cancer and its treatment. Overall, this site is well designed and thorough providing appropriate information for patients undergoing virtual colonography.***

St Mark's Hospital and Academic Institute

www.stmarkshospital.org.uk

This site is from the renowned referral centre for intestinal and colorectal disorders and is primarily designed with their own patients in mind but would be extremely useful to any patient requiring information prior to the procedure. It is well presented and laid out with colourful pages and informative diagrams and images. It is user friendly and easy to navigate. It gives an excellent description of the procedure along with a brief, but comprehensive, description of the risks and side effects. There are good links to other sites including NICE. An excellent site covering most aspects of virtual colonography from a patient perspective.****

The American College of Gastroenterology

www.gi.org/patients/ccrk

This organisation aims to educate both the public and physicians. It is in a patient education pamphlet format with a Frequently Asked Questions lay out. The pamphlet regarding virtual colonography is extremely brief but does cover the main issues of interest to patients. There is, however, no mention of requiring intravenous access during the procedure or administering either contrast or muscle relaxant. It has limited information regarding risks from the procedure. There is only one poor-quality image from a virtual colonography examination on the site. Due to its concise-

ness, the site is easy to navigate and does offer a few links to colorectal cancer. This site is very brief but provides a basic understanding of the procedure to the patient.**

Netwellness

www.netwellness.org

This is a site affiliated to the University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University and the Case Western Reserve University whose aim is to provide healthcare information and educational services. The site is straightforward to use and clearly laid-out although there are no images or diagrams used making it quite monotonous to read. The description of the procedure is very brief and does not mention the use of intravenous contrast or muscle relaxants. The description of the risks and side effects is minimal and does not even mention bowel perforation. On the plus side, the links provided are extremely extensive and easy to use. Overall, this site is less attractive to the viewer but still provides a basic understanding of a virtual colonoscopy for the patient.**

BUPA

www.bupa.co.uk

This site by BUPA provides fact sheets for patients requiring information regarding virtual colonography. It is an extremely well laid-out and immaculately presented site making it easy viewing. There is only a single anatomical diagram provided without any images of the CT scanner available for the patients to view. The procedure is well described with side effects adequately covered. The risks and complications are succinctly mentioned and it contains sufficient information despite not providing statistics. There are extremely comprehensive links available to relevant web sites. In summary, this is concise, well presented site, providing accurate and relevant information.***

NICE

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/ip/IPG129publicinfo.pdf

NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on both promotion of good health and prevention and treatment of ill health. This public information PDF is quite difficult to find on the NICE website but, once found, it provides clear and concise information regarding virtual colonography. Unfortunately, there are no images or diagrams on the site but the text is well presented and laid out. There are statistics provided enabling the patient to compare the outcome of virtual colonography to a standard colonoscopy, but also comparing patients preference of a standard colonoscopy, virtual colonography and barium enema. The risks and complications are clearly described although no figures are quoted. The site also mentions that virtual colonography is more appropriate in certain patient groups, which may be useful for patients attempting to understand why they have been referred for this procedure as opposed to the more traditional barium enema or colonoscopy. Limited links are provided to other related NICE documents and NHS Direct but none regarding the diagnosis or treatment of colorectal carcinoma or polyps. Overall, this site provides an excellent concise description of virtual colonography allowing the patient to compare it with other methods of visualising the colon.****