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

SELECTED INTERNET VIEWING

References

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Virtual colonography

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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.****