

Website reviews @ TOG

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This issue of TOG contains two articles on pelvic floor dysfunction, which is becoming an increasing problem for our health service. We endeavour, as always, to review pertinent sites that will be of benefit to all.

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www.icsoffice.org

This is the official website for the International Continence Society, a registered charity in the UK. The Society is for all medical and allied professionals and is concerned with furthering education, scientific research and clinical practice and removing the stigma of incontinence. The expansive main menu on the left border aids navigation of this site and each heading is further subdivided, allowing quick access to the information required. The

e-learning segment is worth mentioning, as it provides online presentations on complex continence issues complete with questions at the end of the section, which is useful for trainees aiming to gain a better understanding of urogynaecology. The site is currently promoting the ICS annual meeting this year in Glasgow and is complete with abstracts of previously presented work and educational publications endorsed by the ICS. A good website to have in your armamentarium when dealing with urogynaecology.



www.dermnetnz.org

This website from the New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated provides facts about skin disorders. It was launched in 1996. The site is navigated either by the banner main menu or by a specific topic index, both of which are very comprehensive. The main page is subdivided into three further headings: on resources, information and support for DermNet. With regard to specific dermatological issues in

pregnancy, when clicking on the topic you are provided with an introduction to the area and a specific list of conditions, each with a link to a page dedicated to the skin disorder, which is complete with photographs, a description of the condition, treatment options and references. This is a very informative website with photographs that aid identification of conditions. A slightly off-putting element to the site is the advertising at the top of every page, which flashes frequently with the names of the site’s many sponsors.

www.continence.org.au

In this issue of TOG the complex relationship between the pelvic floor and obesity is discussed. The Continence Foundation of Australia website aims to promote bladder and bowel health by providing information for patients and professionals alike. The homepage has a main banner menu and below this the page is divided into sections, including information resources, news and an events calendar. The section on the bladder and

health provides in-depth knowledge of the pelvic floor, including graphics to aid understanding. It includes discussion of the risk factors, preventive advice and advice on living with incontinence. The site deals with incontinence in men, women and children. For the professional, the site provides an excellent resource for professional development. It also provides information resources which can be ordered and information on new research projects. Overall, a good, easy-to-navigate website for sufferers and professionals alike.



www.diabetes.org.uk

Diabetes UK is the largest organisation in the UK working for people with diabetes, funding research, campaigning and helping people live with the condition. Their mission is to improve the lives of people with diabetes. The site is very appealing due to its ease of navigation and simple yet effective design. The homepage has an area for members to log in on the top right hand corner. Below this is the main menu with seven sections; scrolling over each releases a drop-down menu. There are three further sections on the homepage for highlights, essential information and latest news. Clicking on 'Guide to diabetes' on the homepage, you enter a page where

the left hand menu includes topics from coping with diabetes to financial entitlements. Included in this menu is pregnancy and diabetes. This section is very comprehensive, covering gestational and both type I and type II diabetes. There is also access to a preconception care video: a must for all obstetricians caring for diabetic women in pregnancy. An informative guide to all stages of pregnancy can be ordered through the site at minimal cost. The website is aimed at both professionals and sufferers, providing excellent, concise information, and it should be recommended to women with diabetes considering pregnancy and those with a risk of developing gestational diabetes.



www.intuitivesurgical.com/ www.davincisurgery.com

The Intuitive Surgical home site deals with logistics such as company details, careers, products available, training, support, da Vinci surgery and hospital programmes. Each topic is further elaborated using the drop-down menu. For example, by clicking on 'Training', the menu expands to incorporate information on training approaches, pathways, centres, resources and support tools and, finally, support staff training.

The site is linked via the surgery section to the da Vinci surgery website, which highlights the operative areas where robots have been used successfully, including gynaecology, urology, colorectal, general surgery, cardiothoracic and head and neck surgery. Navigation on this site is, again, via drop-down menus, which lead to information pertinent to both clinicians and patients. Surgical

information leaflets are available to download, as are patient interviews on their success with robotic surgery. By using the search tool located on the top right hand corner trainees can search for live surgeries in each of the relevant surgical areas, allowing visual detail of the surgery, including set-up, docking and console work.

These sites are very easily navigated and their layout is clear, concise and with easy-to-understand information. While these are commercial websites, both provide evidence-based information regarding both training and clinical outcomes. In an age of patient-led management it is vital that we all understand and appreciate the surgical options available to patients to be able to counsel them appropriately. Identification of surgeons and institutions providing robotic surgery is available using the site-specific search tool on the right hand side of the page, with contact facilities provided.

