New Media

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Internet concepts: Part II

Operating System (OS)

The basic structural software running on a computer, situated "underneath" things like word processors, web browsers, and spreadsheets. Windows 95 is perhaps the best known OS. Others include Unix, OS/2, MacOS and DOS.

Unix

A popular but technically demanding and novice-unfriendly operating system used by most servers on the Internet. Unix is designed to be used by many people at the same time (i.e., is multi-user) and has Internet connectivity (TCP/IP) built-in.

Linux

A free version of Unix that is very popular for Web servers.

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

The (TCP/IP) protocol that enables files to be copied from one computer to another on the Internet. These files can be of any kind (software, images, spreadsheets etc.) With FTP, you can also rename or delete files on a remote computer. Although FTP is less important than it was before the development of the World Wide Web, it is still used extensively for file "uploads" and Web site development at remote locations. One popular program for FTP, known as WS-FTP, is available at <http://www.download.com>, a popular software distribution site.

Anonymous FTP

In contrast to conventional FTP, where a login name

and password are required, this is a service that enables you to connect to a remote computer to access certain files by logging on as an unidentified user, thereby sidestepping login and password security.

Archie

A software tool, no longer in popular use, for finding files stored on anonymous FTP sites.

Acrobat

Some Web documents are formatted using the Adobe Acrobat PDF format (Portable Document Format) instead of the more predominant but less flexible HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). Acrobat files maintain the layout of a printed page and are viewed using free Acrobat Reader from Adobe (<http://www.adobe.com>). Several medical journals (such as the BMJ at <http://www.bmj.com>) are using this format for articles they co-publish on the Internet.

Newsgroup

The name for discussion groups on USENET, a world-wide system of some 20,000 discussion groups accessible via the Internet.

Posting

An article or comment sent to a mailing list, electronic bulletin board or newsgroup.

Browser

A program used to examine various Internet resources, usually Web Pages and Newsgroups. The most popular browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

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Plug-in

Software that "plugs in" to a browser to increase its capability, such as to display Adobe Acrobat files or to handle the display of video files.

Telnet

Software program used to log into a (usually Unix) computer from a remote site. Used primarily by the academic community for searching library holdings and for remote data acquisition.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION WEB SITES ON THE INTERNET**Canadian Blood Services Web Site**

<http://www.bloodservices.ca>

This is the official site for the new Canadian Blood Services agency. Items of potential interest include all 1138 pages of the final report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada (Krever Commission), the agency's "10 Point Transition Strategy" emphasizing quality, accountability and leadership, and copies of their newsletter ("Blood Beat"). There are plenty of links and other information of interest to patients and the public, but limited resources specifically directed at physicians.

Hema-Quebec Web Site

<http://www.hema-quebec.qc.ca>

This is the Quebec equivalent of the Canadian Blood Services agency. The site is less elaborate, but does include links, media information and donation clinic information.

American Association of Blood banks

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

This site is rich in content, but more on material relevant to blood bankers than to anesthesiologists. A special section for physicians is noteworthy, especially the section entitled "Practice Parameters, Guidelines and Statements on Transfusion Practice".

Current Issues in Blood Transfusion

<http://www.mdacc.tmc.edu/~citm/H-mm.html>

This is an excellent newsletter published triannually by the Section of Transfusion Medicine and Laboratory Immunology at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

U.S.A. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Blood Transfusion Safety Information

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/nhlbi/blood/transf/prof/transhc.htm>

Contains alerts on the use of autologous blood and on

the indications for administering red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

<http://www.personal.usyd.edu.au/~rguss/ASBT/home.html>

Contains a section entitled "Topics in Transfusion Medicine" consisting of selected abstracts.

History of Blood Transfusion

<http://www.arcbs.redcross.org.au/history.htm>

A nice synopsis from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service.

The Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Network

<http://www.noblood.com/>

A very informative and highly polished site advocating medical and surgical alternatives to blood transfusions. Very professionally done.

Jehovah's Witnesses and Blood Transfusions

The Official Site: <http://www.watchtower.org>

The "Reform" Site:

<http://www.visiworld.com/starter/newlight/>

Review of

Emergent Cricothyrotomy. The Procedure's Narrated Video Guide

Alan Jon Smalley MD FACEP, Lenworth Jacobs md mph facs. \$36 USD individual \$70 USD institutional. Format VHS NTSC.

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This is a short, self-published videotape on emergency cricothyrotomy, presented by two individuals with demonstrated clinical expertise in this area. The tape begins with a review of the relevant anatomy followed by a review of the required surgical instruments. A clearly presented demonstration of cricothyrotomy on a pig model follows. The tape concludes with a summary of the technique to reinforce what was taught earlier.

All in all, this is an excellent, if short, video. Still, I would have liked the authors to have included material on the indications, contraindications, and controversies with respect to cricothyrotomy as well as a discussion in its role in the ASA difficult airway algorithm.