New Media

Website Review

AnesthesiaWeb

www.anesthesiaweb.com

AnesthesiaWeb is "an independent educational resource by and for anesthesia providers" jointly offered by Duke University and Abbott Laboratories, the latter being suppliers of an unrestricted educational grant. The site is free but requires registration and the selection of a user name and password. According to the website, "AnesthesiaWeb seeks to present contemporaneous peer-reviewed information of interest and impact on current anesthesia practice. Content areas are diverse, and include (but are not limited to) ambulatory care, bioengineering, critical care, managed care, medical informatics, pediatrics, and pharmacology." Use is restricted to medical professionals, for reasons that likely have to do with the American medicolegal climate. (I personally feel that all interested individuals, not just medical professionals, should be allowed access to educational medical materials wherever practical).

Editorial content for AnesthesiaWeb "is determined by the Anesthesia Department of Duke University Medical Center and an independent board of practicing and teaching anesthesiologists from leading institutions" across the U.S.A. David Lubarsky is the current chair of the Editorial Board.

Content offered at AnesthesiaWeb includes the following:

[1] Literature Reviews . This section offers a number of brief literature reviews in the range of 1000 words in length. Sample synopses include: Chronic Pain as an Outcome of Surgery, Renal Protection, Fenoldopam, Postoperative Death and Malpractice Suits, and many others. Most synopses can be read in a few minutes and would be perfect for "porting" into PalmPilot™ (or similar) format for enthusiasts of pocket computing technology.

[2] Ask the Experts. This section of AnesthesiaWeb allows members to communicate electronically with

Advisory Board members and guest experts. Questions are submitted using an electronic form. Here is a sample question (go to the site to compare your answer with theirs).

I would be grateful for a consensus opinion regarding the time that should be allowed following uncomplicated myocardial infarction before anaesthesia is used for non-emergency surgery. What is the range of risks? What evidence is there to support such a consensus?

[3] Special Features . This section includes material from past anesthesia meetings (ASA, SAMBA, SOAP), including sample video clips and even information on handheld medical computing ("Cleared for take-off: The Anesthesiologist and the PalmPilot™")

[4] Residents Corner . This section features information likely to be of value to residents, including a link collection, a list of recommended textbooks, and some clinical vignettes. Each month, the Resident's Corner also features a story on "a physician who is making great strides in his or her field both as an example and as a resource for residents".

[5] Case of the Month. This section features a complex case for study and discussion.

[6] Archive. A repository for old (but still quite valuable) material.

[7] Search Engine. The whole of AnesthesiaWeb can be searched for selected keywords.

This is an example of a high-quality anesthesiology site made possible by academic / industry synergy. Highly recommended.

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Website Review

Anonymous Critical Incidents Reporting System (CIRS©)

<http://www.medana.unibas.ch/ENG/CIRS/Cirs.htm>

CIRS is an international anonymous critical incident reporting system run by the Department of