New Media

CD-ROM Review

Review of SimBioSys ECG

(The Fundamentals of 12-Lead Interpretation and Rhythm Recognition)

This is another computer-assisted instructional tool from Critical Concepts (www.critcon.com). The program begins much like a conventional text, indicating the intended audience for each segment and quizzing the user's understanding of its content. The text begins with a review of the components of the ECG complex but progresses to a fairly sophisticated interpretation of rhythms, conduction abnormalities, ischemia, and hypertrophy. The user can view simple embedded animations, progress through cases known or unknown, use a caliper tool to determine intervals, zoom in or out of tracings or switch from a diagnostic 12-lead to a rhythm strip. Alternatively, one can attempt to write a report on an unknown 12-lead cardiogram using the programme's recommended six-stage analytic approach, comparing one's interpretation with the "correct report". The user's report is instantly marked and hotlinks are provided to assist in areas where discrepancies occurred. Finally, there is a "Rhythm Racer" which provides random dynamic rhythms, testing how quickly and accurately these are identified.

The content was excellent, and while not intended for a cardiologist, provides adequate depth for most clinicians, including critical care and cardiac anesthesiologists. It allows the user to acquire the specific information at one's own pace. The quizzes provide an opportunity to check that the material completed or bypassed is indeed understood. The program was intuitive and sufficiently engrossing that this reviewer spent more time than intended and repeatedly tried to improve his "Rhythm Racer" score. The Rhythm Racer, while fun, provides unrealistic tracings that become quickly recognized. This program provides a more entertaining, and probably more profitable method of acquiring ECG interpretation skills than a conventional text. Where was it when I needed it?

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Internet Journal Review

The Internet Journal of Anesthesiology

ISSN 1092-406X, <http://www.ispub.com/journals/ija.htm>

This is a relatively new anesthesiology journal (founded in 1997) that will interest many readers, especially since access is free. It is published quarterly in electronic-only format. The Editor-in-Chief for the journal is Olivier C. Wenker, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The journal's masthead provides the following information:

This is a peer reviewed journal. Every published article has been reviewed by members of the Editorial Board and the editor-in-chief. All articles are archived by Internet Scientific Publications LLC and recognized by The Library of Congress Catalog of Publications. In addition, "The Internet Journal of Anesthesiology" is peer reviewed by the Society of Advanced Telecommunications in Anesthesia.

The journal subscribes to the Health on the Net Foundation Code of Conduct (HON code) for medical and health Web sites. This is a Swiss non-profit foundation that helps ensure the reliability and credibility of information provided on the Internet. (More information about this important initiative is available at <http://www.hon.ch>). The journal is also affiliated with the International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication, a research and standards organization devoted to the advancement of electronic scholarly communication. (More information is available at <http://www.icaap.org>).

Here is a sampling of articles from the Volume 4, Number 4 issue:

- Caudal Ropivacaine Versus Bupivacaine For Paediatric Day-Case Circumcision Procedures
- Compliance with Standard Precautions Among Pediatric Anesthesia Providers
- First 300 Cases Of Pediatric Regional Anesthesia In Venezuela (Caudal, Spinal And Peridural)