Gerrity
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Answering Clinical Questions

Background Questions (2-part format - who, what, why, how of a condition, etc):
Textbooks (UpToDate, DynaMed, MDConsult, drug compendia), consultants, peers, Google

Foreground Questions (specific questions that include a Patient, Intervention, Outcome):
Evidence Summaries (see appropriate list below)

Evidence Summaries: Therapy

•**Clinical Evidence** (www.clinicalevidence.bmj.com) – starts with common clinical questions, uses Cochrane Library as starting point
•**Cochrane Library** (OVID, www.thecochranelibrary.com)
-Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Review)– extremely rigorous reviews, use abstract
-Other Reviews (DARE) – well-done reviews by others
-Controlled Trials Registry – database of controlled trials, much smaller than Medline
•**ACP Journal Club** (OVID, www.acpjc.org) –structured summary of high quality articles
•Effective Health Care (AHRQ, www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov) – started 2008, EPC reviews
•Evidence-based Synthesis Program (VA, www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/)
•**PubMed Health** (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/) – searches above databases
•**PubMed (or OVID) clinical queries** (first use systematic reviews, then therapy and specificity)

• **EvidenceUpdates** http://plus.mcmaster.ca/EvidenceUpdates/
• **ACP JournalWise** (for ACP members) http://journalwise.acponline.org/
(pre-appraised, pre-rated for clinical relevance articles, titles sent to you via e-mail)
•PIER (www.acponline.org, depends on specific topic) – started 2002, ACP members free
•UpToDate (www.uptodate.com, depends on the specific topic card) – started 1992

Evidence Summaries: Diagnostic Tests

•Cochrane Library (OVID, www.cochrane.org)
-Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Review)– extremely rigorous reviews, use abstract
-Other Reviews (DARE) – well-done reviews by others
•**ACP JournalWise** – started in 1991, part of Annals of Internal Medicine starting July 2008
•Users' Guides to the Medical Literature (book, http://pubs.ama-assn.org/misc/usersguides.dtl)
•Evidence Based on Call (www.eboncall.org) – not being updated – last updates 2002
•PIER (integrated ACP resource)
•UpToDate
•PubMed or OVID clinical queries (use diagnosis and specificity)

Other EBM Stuff

•Rationale Rx (bigbrain.ohsu.edu) – OHSU online EBM course focused on drugs
•Center for EBM at U of Toronto (ktclearinghouse.ca/cebm/toolbox)
(NNT, LR, calculators, online EBM tutorials)
•CEBM at Oxford University (www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1023)

Short articles - clinical queries and using NNT and likelihood ratios (from ACP Journal Club)

1. Sackett DL, Straus S. On some clinically useful measures of the accuracy of diagnostic tests [Editorial]. ACP J Club 1998;129:A17-A19.

2. Sackett DL. On some clinically useful measures of the effects of treatment [EBM Notebook]. Evidence-based Med 1996;1:37-38.

3. Sackett DL, Haynes, RB. Summarising the effects of therapy: a new table and some more terms. ACP J Club 1997;127:A15-A16.

4. Haynes RB, Wilczynski N. Finding the gold in MEDLINE: Clinical Queries. ACP J Club 2005;142:A8-A9.