



review

The Oxford Pain Internet site

http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/Bandolier/painres/painpag

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The Oxford Pain Internet site can be found at <http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/Bandolier/painres/painpag/index.html>. and was launched a year ago for anyone with a professional or personal interest in pain and analgesia. Funding to construct and support the site has come from The BUPA Foundation and Merck Sharp and Dohme. After a long period during which little changed, the site had a slight face-lift in August of this year. Its appearance will be familiar to anyone who uses the electronic version of Bandolier (<http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/Bandolier/index.html>), which is edited from the Oxford Pain Unit.

The site has pulled together a large array of systematic reviews with pain as an endpoint and evaluated them for quality. The home page is a simple table of hypertext links on a white background (Figure 1).

The table is divided into acute and chronic pain areas; each area is then further subdivided. Clicking on to the hypertext link brings up a page with a clear, simple design (Figure 2).

Each page is structured in a standard way. At the top of the page is a clear clinical conclusion (“bottom line”), which can be quickly read and understood. This is followed by a bullet point outline of the systematic review of the area including the full reference. The summarised findings include numbers needed to treat and where information is available; adverse effects are also recorded.

The acute pain section includes hypertext links to analgesics and other interventions for acute pain, including acupuncture and TENS. The chronic pain section has sections on analgesics, musculoskeletal pain, including arthritis and back pain, as well as



Figure 1 <http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/Bandolier/painres/painpag/index.html>

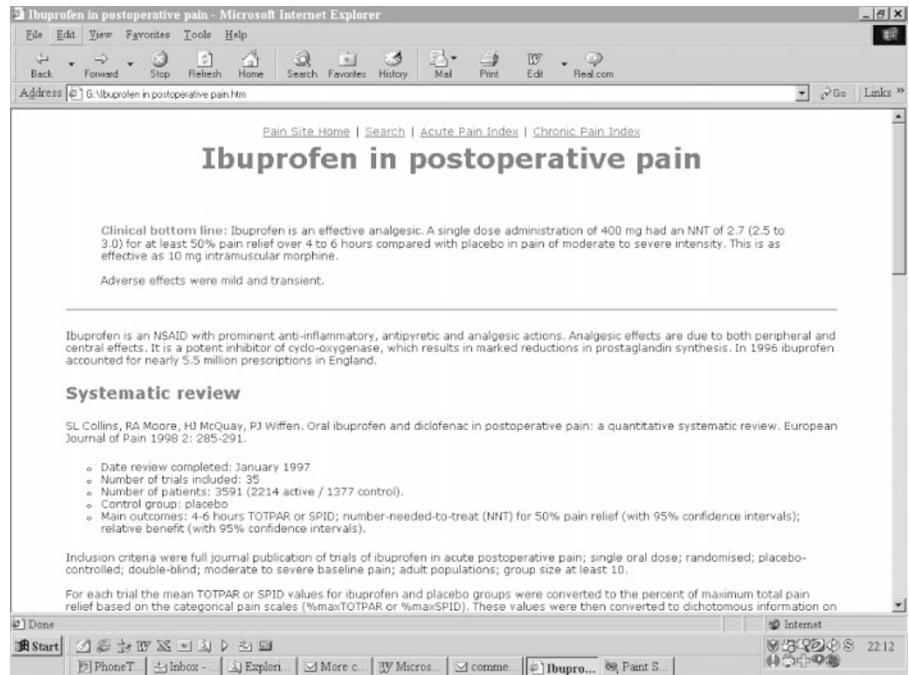


Figure 2 <http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/Bandolier/painres/painpag/Acutrev/Analgesics/AP012.html>

cancer, migraine and neuropathic pain.

Another useful feature of the site is the Oxford League Table of analgesic effectiveness which practitioners will find interesting.

While not at the cutting edge of design, the website is easy to use and navigate and is a very good resource

bringing together an impressive array of the evidence-base on pain. As dentists to whom patients regularly turn for the relief of pain we owe it to them to have some understanding of the evidence base of pain and how to manage acute pain well. This website provides an excellent starting point for this and is worth adding to your 'favourites' list.