

# Interactive Medicine: Resources in Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery

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*The Internet has proved to be a useful resource in various fields of medicine. Within the field of Dermatology, Internet sites appeal to specialists in dermatology, non-specialist physicians, medical students, and the lay public.*

*In the past 2 years, United States physicians' regular Internet use has increased 300%, according to an ongoing study conducted by the Santa Clara-based Healtheon Corporation.<sup>1</sup> The phenomenon of increased Internet usage is explainable. Patients have access to the Internet and often consult net sources before they see their physician; therefore, it is very important that physicians are likewise "connected" to enhance patient communication.*

*Careful study of approximately 300 Internet sites has yielded a reader-friendly presentation of only the sites that should be most useful to practitioners, medical students, and the lay public. The objective is to promote public health through doctor-patient communication and through the use of valuable interactive medical resources.*

## I. Professional Dermatology Sites

- American Osteopathic College of Dermatology  
<http://www.aocd.org>  
Information on the purpose and objectives of the AOCD, as well as how to find a D.O. Dermatologist by using a map of the United States with a point-and-click format. Easy access to information on numerous skin diseases, such as acne, alopecia, eczema, psoriasis, poison ivy, rosacea, vitiligo, and skin cancer, along with links to online journals. There is even a section on sun-

protective clothing. This is a highly informative site with up-to-date, helpful information.

- Dermatology Internet Sites  
<http://www.baydermatology.com/site.htm>  
This is a general page containing links to a variety of Dermatology Internet sites. This gateway site lists organizations, academic departments, patient information, and other general links.
- American Academy of Dermatology  
<http://www.aad.org>  
This site has sections for members and the general public. The members' only pages contain specialists' societies, online journals, and interactive options. The pages for the lay public contain patient-oriented information on topics such as acne and melanoma.
- Dermatology/Yale University  
[http://www.med.yale.edu/library/sir/select.phtml?prof\\_subject=Medicine:Dermatology](http://www.med.yale.edu/library/sir/select.phtml?prof_subject=Medicine:Dermatology)  
This comprehensive index contains clinical guidelines, diseases and disorders, differential diagnosis, electronic atlas and images, and experimental projects.
- University of Iowa, Department of Dermatology  
<http://tray.dermatology.uiowa.edu>  
This site contains useful links for many interest groups, and provides various dermatology resources including:
  - dermatology societies and organizations
  - academic dermatology departments around the world
  - dermatology residency programs
  - dermatology journals, publications, and news
  - dermatology meetings and calendar
  - other dermatology online databases, includ-

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From the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California.  
REPRINT REQUESTS to 517 North 137<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, Washington 98133.

ing allergies, drug reactions, laboratory tests, clinical pathology, images, genetic diseases, mycology, parasites, etc.

- Global Dermatology Grand Rounds  
<http://telemedicine.org/rdrugge.htm>  
Electronic equivalent of hospital grand rounds where specialists submit challenging cases for presentation to a wider audience.
- Electronic Textbook of Dermatology  
<http://www.telemedicine.org/CONTRIBS.HTM>  
This site's material is targeted to an audience of trained clinical dermatologists. There is an experimental project in which an out-of-print dermatology textbook is in the process of being updated by "dynamic hyperlinks and Web exploration." The site allows professionals to use the Internet as an "authoring environment" and to contribute to the electronic textbook project.
- Internet Dermatology Society  
<http://www.telemedicine.org>  
The site provides an opportunity to join an online society that provides a forum for those in the fields of dermatology, dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology, and immunodermatology.
- Telemedicine Information Exchange  
<http://telemed.org>  
A valuable resource allowing physicians to get in touch with a variety of telemedicine organizations, useful for providing services, especially for people in rural areas who can send case information to specialists for diagnosis and treatment recommendations.
- DermPath Tutor  
<http://tray.dermatology.uiowa.edu>  
DermPath Tutor is a link from the University of Iowa Department of Dermatology home page. Access DermPath Tutor by clicking on the desired link. Links include such topics the DermPath Tutor Dictionary, DermPath Tutor Images, and DermPath Tutorial.

## II. Dermatologic Surgery

- American Society for Dermatological Surgery  
<http://www.asds-net.org>  
The ASDS provides grants, training, and continuing education for its members in new dermatologic surgical techniques and procedures. Represented in the American Medical Association House of Delegates, the Society was

formed in 1970 to promote excellence in the subspecialty of dermatologic surgery and to foster the highest standards of patient care.

- Homepage for the journal Dermatologic Surgery  
<http://www.asds-net.org>  
This journal is the official publication of the ASDS. Use the above ASDS site to access this journal.
- American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery  
<http://www.aslms.org>  
The ASLMS provides a forum for the exchange of scientific information and participates in communicating the latest developments in laser medicine and surgery to clinicians, research investigators, government and regulatory agencies, and the public.
- Mohs Micrographic Surgery  
<http://www.meddean.luc.edu/lumen/MedEd/medicine/dermatology/melton/mohscont.htm>  
An excellent resource for those interested in or already practicing in this area, this website is sponsored by the Loyola University Medical Education Network.
- Johns Hopkins University site on Mohs Surgery  
<http://www.med.jhu.edu/cancerctr/mohs/mohs.htm>  
This site contains an excellent patient handout on Mohs surgery.

## III. Peer Reviewed Journals

- Clinical and Experimental Dermatology  
<http://www.blackwell-science.com/products/journals/jnltitle.htm>  
At this gateway page, click on Clinical and Experimental Dermatology. Compiled by an international editorial board, this journal publishes new developments and directions in dermatologic research.
- Archives of Dermatology  
<http://www.ama-assn.org/public/journals/derm/derhome.htm>  
Clinical and laboratory studies on cutaneous pathophysiology; oldest dermatology journal in the United States.
- The British Journal of Dermatology  
<http://www.blackwell-science.com/products/journals/jnltitle.htm>

At this gateway page, click on The British Journal of Dermatology. Publishes original articles on all aspects of the biology and pathology of the skin, serving the laboratory worker and clinician.

- DermNet  
<http://www.dermnet.org.nz/links.html>  
This New Zealand-based site contains a descriptive listing with links to several professional journals, including The International Journal of Dermatology, European Journal of Dermatology, and The Australasian Journal of Dermatology.
- Society for Pediatric Dermatology — The Journal  
<http://www.spdnet.org>  
This site provides information on subscribing to the Society for Pediatric Dermatology—The Journal and links to other information pertaining to the Society for Pediatric Dermatology.
- Dermatology Online Journal  
<http://matrix.ucdavis.edu/DOJdesk/desk.html>  
A journal, published entirely online, that emphasizes the potential of the Internet for the profession.

#### IV. Patient-Oriented Sites

- Mayo Clinic: Skin Conditions  
<http://www.mayohealth.org/mayo/library/htm/tocskinc.htm>  
A collection of information on skin conditions, such as rashes, canker sores, genital warts, and many others.
- Patient Information Link/University of Iowa Department of Dermatology  
<http://tray.dermatology.uiowa.edu>  
At the University of Iowa Department of Dermatology home page, click on Patient

Information and you will bring up a list of various patient resources, including patient support groups dedicated to skin diseases, patient information pamphlets, Skin Cancer News, health hotlines, etc.

- Patient and Health Education Resources on the Web: Skin Conditions or Disorders  
<http://www.execpc.com/~stjos/skin.html>  
An alphabetical listing of links to sites covering topics from acne to psoriasis to warts. It includes a link to patient support groups.
- DermInfoNet  
<http://www.derm-infonet.com>  
This Internet site provides patients with up-to-date information for the treatment and management of disorders of the skin, hair, and nails. Both patients and healthcare professionals can utilize this site as a resource for educational literature, health guides, etc. It contains links to AcneNet and MelanomaNet (coming soon).
- AcneNet  
<http://www.derminfo-net.com/acnenet/toc.html>  
This American Academy of Dermatology-sponsored site features links to a variety of information pertinent to acne sufferers, such as basic facts and treatment.
- Skin Cancer Zone  
<http://www.skin-cancer.com>  
This site provides tips about protecting yourself from the sun's rays, facts about skin cancer, treatment options, links to online resources, and a daily UV index from 50 geographical areas in the United States.

#### REFERENCE

1. Have you heard the latest? *California Physician* 16: 16, 1999.