

JFP Journal Club: Growing and Going Online

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As the first year of the JFP Journal Club comes to a close, we are excited to be changing and expanding this feature to make it more useful to our readers. The purpose of our Journal Club is to feature research of interest to family physicians, to provide a critical appraisal of it, and to recommend whether it should change the way we practice. Our goals are to provide material that will spur the development of local journal clubs by modeling the process of critical appraisal, and to help busy physicians make rational decisions based on the results of research relevant to family practice.

Changes in the Journal Club will take several forms. Three reviewers have been added to the six already involved in the feature: Cora Spaulding, MD, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; George Bergus, MD, of the University of Iowa; and Joy Melnikow, MD, of the University of California, Davis. They bring diverse interests and a wealth of experience in the instruction of critical appraisal, and we are delighted to welcome them aboard.

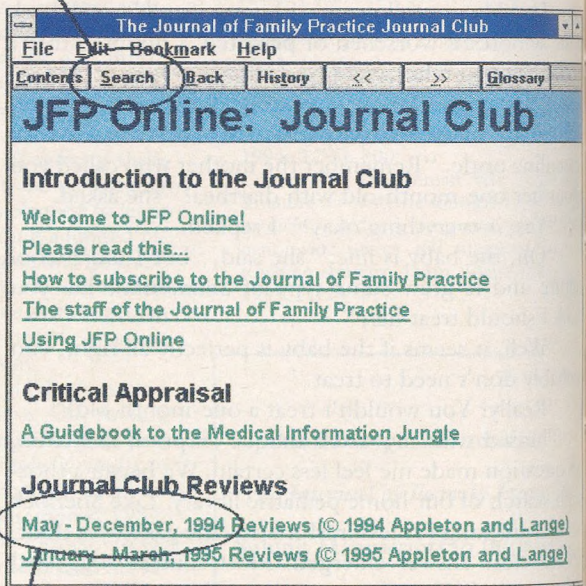
Plans to expand Journal Club are underway. Each month, three articles rather than two will be featured, at least one of which will be from a recent issue of *The Journal of Family Practice*. Each month's features will be written by at least two different reviewers, and the format also will be changed slightly to make the reviews easier to use. We will continue to do our best to review research articles that address important clinical problems for family physicians.

We have also taken our first steps into the information age. The collected reviews that have been published since May 1994 are now available in electronic format as a hypertext document that can be searched by key word. This electronic form of JFP's Journal Club, known as *JFP Online: Journal Club*, provides physicians free access to an

up-to-date and easily searched reference of important primary care research. By the end of the Journal Club's second year, this document will include 60 reviews, to which at least 36 will be added each year.

Viewing the JFP Online document on computer requires Microsoft Windows (Microsoft Corp, Redmond, Wash) version 3.0 or higher and the WINHELP.EXE file. The latter is distributed at no charge as part of the Win-

Click here with the mouse pointer to search by keyword



Click here with the mouse pointer to see a list of all 1994 Journal Club reviews (Figure 2).

Figure 1. This is the table of contents for the online version of the JFP Journal Club. Users can click with the mouse pointer on any underlined word to "jump" to that location in the document. For example, clicking on *May to December, 1994* takes the user to a list of the Journal Club reviews for that period. All articles are also indexed by key word. Clicking on the Search button locates all articles related to the topic of interest.

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Click here to view the review of an article on heparin dosing (Figure 3).

Click here to go back to the list of all reviews (Figure 2).

Click here to pop up a definition of "nomogram".

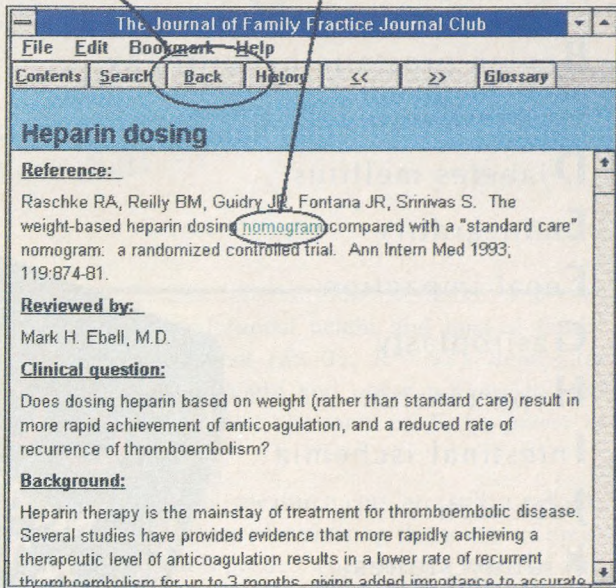
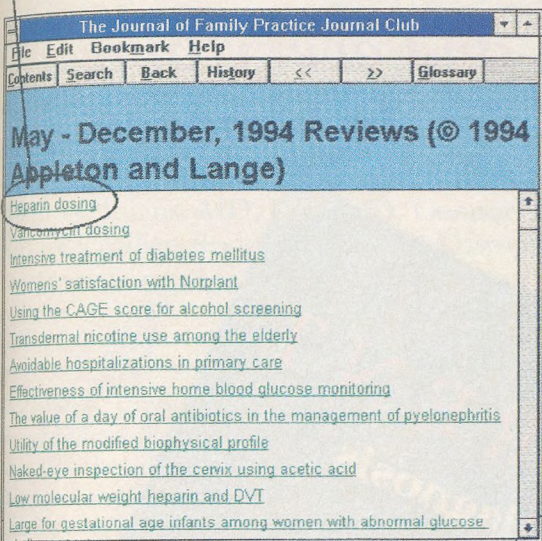


Figure 2. Clicking on *May to December, 1994* in the table of contents brings up the list of reviews from this period. To view an article, click on the name of the article. To return to the table of contents from this point, click on the Contents button.

Figure 3. This review of an article on weight-based heparin dosing was published in the May 1994 issue of *The Journal of Family Practice*. "Pop-up" definitions are available for words in the text underscored with a dotted line. Clicking on the word "nomogram," for example, brings up a window with a brief definition of the word.

dows operating system. Users of Apple Macintosh computers (Apple Computer, Cupertino, Calif) can view the document using the Help File viewer distributed with any Microsoft application, such as Word, Excel, or PowerPoint for the Macintosh, or using software that emulates Windows, such as SoftWindows (Insignia Solutions, Inc, Mountain View, Calif).

America Online subscribers can download the file by selecting the key word SOFTWARE and searching for JFP. CompuServe subscribers should select GOMED-SIG, then library 14. Using either service, JFP Online is under the file name JFPJC.HLP. Figures 1 to 3 show how JFP Online: Journal Club will appear on-screen and how to navigate through the document. To obtain subscribing information, call 1-800-827-6364 for America Online; 1-800-848-8199 for CompuServe.

Finally, a presence for *The Journal of Family Practice* on the World Wide Web (WWW) is being planned and should be online by midyear. It will contain the Journal

Club and a variety of other features of interest to family physicians. The WWW is a powerful, easy-to-use tool for browsing the resources of the Internet (*Faughman JG, Doukas DJ, Ebell MH, Fox GN. Cruising the information highway: online services and electronic mail for physicians and families. J Fam Pract 1994; 39:365-71*). With a few clicks of the mouse, users can "travel" to such diverse places as the Library of Congress, the Louvre, the library of a major university, a record store, or the National Institutes of Health. If you do not yet have access to this fantastic Internet resource, talk to your local medical librarian or information services manager and get connected!

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