

Evidence Based Reviews in Surgery 2009-2010

Evidence Based Reviews in Surgery (EBRS) is an internet based journal club jointly sponsored by the Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) and the American College of Surgeons (ACS). It is designed to teach surgeons and residents critical appraisal skills. During the academic year, 8 clinical articles are chosen for review and discussion. They are selected not only for their clinical relevance to general surgery but also because they cover a spectrum of issues important to surgeons; for example causation or risk factors for disease, natural history or prognosis of disease, how to quantify disease (measurement issues), diagnostic tests and the early diagnosis of disease and the effectiveness of treatment. A methodological article is included that assists the reader in critically appraising the clinical article. Methodological and clinical reviews are done by clinical experts and posted on the EBRS website. There is also a listserv discussion where participants can discuss the monthly article. Maintenance of Certification credits and/or CME credits can be obtained with monthly participation.

A second module of Evidence Based Reviews in Surgery-Colorectal Surgery (EBRS-CRS) is now offered on colorectal topics. It follows the same format as the EBRS. Each package will contain a methodological article, a clinical article, methodological and clinical reviews completed by experts in the field and have a listserv discussion. Six packages will be offered this academic year commencing in October 2009 and continuing in November, January, February, March and April. ASCRS members can participate if they are members of either CAGS or the ACS. The EBRS-CRS website can be found by going to either the CAGS website at www.cags-accg.ca or to the ACS website at <http://www.facs.org/education/ebrs.html> and accessing the secure site with your username and password.

The following are the topics that will be covered this year:

- Is there a difference in the leak rate for patients randomized to stoma or no stoma following low anterior resection for rectal ca
- Meta-analysis on the quality of life following abdominoperineal excision of the rectum vs. anterior resection for rectal cancer
- Nuts, corn, popcorn and the incidence of diverticulitis
- What is the most effective management of pilonidal sinus?
- Does colonoscopy decrease the risk of colorectal cancer?
- Does Stapled side-to-side Anastomosis decrease the risk of recurrence of Crohn's disease after ileocolic resection ?

If you are interested in participating on the listserv or receiving CME credits and/or Maintenance of Certification credits or have questions regarding EBRS-CRS, please contact Marg McKenzie at mmckenzie@mtsinai.on.ca