



OUT BEHIND THE BARN DANS LE FEU DE L'ACTION

CMA Web site – Stat!Ref textbooks

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The Canadian Medical Association has recently added 45 medical textbooks from Stat!Ref to the Clinical Resources section of their Web site (www.cma.ca). The subjects cover primary care, many specialties and basic medical sciences. This article gives a quick tour of the main features of this new resource.

If not already registered, CMA members can sign up by clicking the “Free Registration” link on the CMA home page. You will need your CMA ID number, which is usually printed on your provincial medical association card. If you cannot find your ID number, or have difficulty with the registration process, contact the CMA Member Service Centre at 800 457-4205.

STAT!REF

Stat!Ref is located in the “Clinical Resources” section of the CMA home page. Select “Stat!Ref Textbooks” from the left-hand menu to open it in a new browser window. Users should be aware that if Stat!Ref is inactive for more than 10 minutes, it will automatically disconnect.

BASIC SEARCH

Click on the Stat!Ref Textbooks link. Enter your search terms in the textbox on the Stat!Ref page. The default is to search all available textbooks. A search for a common term, such as “diabetes,” may result in a slight delay, since there may be hundreds of items that match that term.

ADVANCED SEARCH

The Advanced Search page allows you to select which books are included in a search. Experienced searchers can also

change the defaults for precision, proximity, related concepts and inclusion of suffixes.

RESULTS PAGE

The right-hand side of the Results page displays the first 10 items that match your search. The next 90 are available (in groups of 10) from a menu at the top of the page under “Result Page.” Click on the item’s title to display the full text. Your search terms will be highlighted in red wherever they appear in the text. At any time, you can return to the result of your last search by clicking the Results tab at the top of the page.

The left-hand side displays the total number of matches and how many are in the categories of Patient Information, Point of Care (quick reference texts) or Titles By Discipline (specialties). Click on each link to see a further breakdown by textbook or specialty.

STEDMAN’S DICTIONARY

While reading textbook pages, the “Stedman’s Lookup” feature lets you look up unfamiliar words. Double-click on a word in the text to highlight it, and then click on the “Stedman’s Lookup” link at the top of the page. A pop-up window will display the definition of the highlighted word.

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE

This page provides a list of all textbooks available in Stat!Ref. Click on a book title to display its table of contents. Click on a section heading to see any additional subheadings. A “Collapse All” link allows you to close all subheadings and return to the main book list.

RESOURCES PAGE

This link connects to several additional resources. The StatStudy link provides resources for medical students and residents. The PubMed link connects to the US National Library of Medicine MEDLINE medical literature database. The National Guideline Clearing House link connects to a database of US clinical guidelines. For Canadian guidelines, visit the Guidelines link on the CMA Clinical Resources page.

ANATOMY.TV

Anatomy.tv provides interactive anatomy drawings suitable for patient education. Select a section of the body and then click on any part of the diagram to see a description. You can also select what layer of the body part you wish to view.

MEDCALC 3000

MedCalc 3000 provides a number of interactive medical calculators. At the time of writing, the CMA subscription only provides a few of these calculators. In future, perhaps the CMA will consider adding the full calculator package.

USER ASSISTANCE

At the top of every Stat!Ref page are 4 small links labelled "Home," "Preferences," "Help" and "Logoff." The Home link returns you to the Stat!Ref home page if you wish to conduct a new search. The search terms of your last search will still be displayed. The Preferences link allows experienced users to save their preferences for how searches are conducted. The Help link provides detailed information about Stat!Ref. To view the Help table of contents, click on "User Help" in the left-hand column. The Logoff link disconnects you from Stat!Ref and frees the CMA subscription for use by other members.

OTHER CMA RESOURCES

As well as Stat!Ref, the CMA Clinical Resources section contains links to other useful clinical resources such as the Lexi-Drugs drug information database, the MD Consult collection of medical textbooks and the InfoPoems summaries of the best clinical evidence.

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