

commitment to lifelong learning as 1 of the 4 required elements for maintenance of certification.¹¹ Professional development includes the ability to conduct a literature search to answer a clinical question or problem.

Having access to a personal computer and the Internet allows a surgeon to complete a literature search at the office or home. It is not difficult to perform a literature search, the challenge is to recognize when it is necessary and to find the time to complete it. It is no longer acceptable for a surgeon to be estranged from the current literature — the demands of colleagues, licensing bodies and patients necessitate satisfactory knowledge of the best available evidence for surgical care.

Now with your literature search complete and relevant articles reviewed, you make a decision to change your practice and provide heparin prophylaxis to prevent DVT in patients undergoing colorectal surgery. You

make a further decision to explore future questions in clinical care with a literature review to decide upon possible changes in practice.

References

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Calendar Calendrier

Update in general surgery

Update in General Surgery 2003, the 43rd annual course for practising surgeons, sponsored by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, will be held from Apr. 24-26, 2003 at the Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto. Credits: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, AMA Category 1. For registration information contact Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, Uni-

versity of Toronto, 500 University Ave., Ste. 650, Toronto ON M5G 1V7; tel 416 978-2719; fax 416 971-2200; ce.med@utoronto.ca; www.cme.utoronto.ca

Advances in breast cancer

Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto is sponsoring a course entitled "Advances in Breast Cancer: From Molecular Pathology and Imaging to

Therapeutics." The course will be held at the Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto, on June 20 and 21, 2003. Credits: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, AMA Category 1. For registration and call for papers information contact Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 500 University Ave., Ste. 650, Toronto ON M5G 1V7; tel 416 978-2719; fax 416 971-2200; ce.med@utoronto.ca; www.cme.utoronto.ca