

UpToDate® Newsletter

December 2011

Message from the Editor-in-Chief



Denise S. Basow, MD

Dear Subscriber,

UpToDate's mission is to help clinicians improve the quality of care. In order to fulfill this mission and to continuously improve our product, we have had an active research program since the late 1990s. In the past several years, many independent investigators have begun to study UpToDate® as well as other clinical resources, and there are mounting data that the use of UpToDate is associated with better clinical outcomes and more efficient care.

In the [most recent study](#), published in the Journal of Hospital Medicine, investigators from the Harvard School of Public Health found that adoption of UpToDate by a hospital was an independent predictor of reduced hospital mortality, shorter hospital length of stay, and better performance on widely used hospital quality measures (read the [abstract](#) or [complete study](#)). These results are consistent with a prior study that demonstrated that hospitals that use UpToDate have reduced adverse events and shorter length of stay¹, and with our own survey data which demonstrate that UpToDate users change important clinical decisions based on UpToDate recommendations².

Other studies of UpToDate published by independent researchers in just the past year include:

- [UpToDate is faster and more comprehensive than FirstConsult, ACP Pier or Essential Evidence Plus](#) (Med Teach)
- [UpToDate is the most commonly used resource among residents in the US](#) (Mayo Clinic)
- [Users are more confident using UpToDate compared with Google, Ovid, and Pubmed](#) (Postgraduate Medical Journal)
- [Third-year medical students use UpToDate more than any other resource to admit patients and prepare for attending rounds](#) (Clin Teach)
- [UpToDate is the most commonly used information resource by Canadian Nephrologists](#) (Journal of Nephrology)
- [UpToDate performed better than PubMed Clinical Queries](#) (PLoS One)

[See all the research about UpToDate](#) on our website if you want to learn more.

Hospitals worldwide face the same challenges of improving the quality and efficiency of care. Most recently, for example, I was in the UK and China, and both countries have major initiatives to improve the quality of health care delivered. While medical care systems vary by country, the basic need for knowledge and the impact of that knowledge on patient care is remarkably similar.

Sincerely,

Denise S. Basow, MD
Editor-in-Chief

1. Bonis PA, Pickens GT, Rind DM, Foster DA. Association of a clinical knowledge support system with improved patient safety, reduced complications and shorter length of stay among Medicare beneficiaries in acute care hospitals in the United States. *Int J Med Inform.* 2008 Nov;77(11):745-53.
2. [UpToDate Enterprise User Survey](#), US & Canada, May 2010 – Aug. 2011 (N=80,750).

Researchers at Harvard Report the Adoption of UpToDate at U.S. Hospitals is Directly Associated with Saving Lives

The new research reinforces dozens of other studies which support how critical it is to have UpToDate at the point of care. UpToDate hospitals had lower mortality, shorter lengths of stay, and improved hospital quality compared with non-UpToDate hospitals. [Learn more...](#)

Get your FREE copy of the "Use of UpToDate and Outcomes in US Hospitals" study today!

"The data suggests the use of computerized tools such as UpToDate enable better decisions, better outcomes and better care."

- Ashish Jha, M.D., M.P.H.
Harvard and Study Author



UpToDate in General Surgery NEW!

UpToDate is pleased to announce the launch of [General Surgery](#). We have added hundreds of topics in General Surgery over the last several years and our beta testing by surgeons has shown that UpToDate answers 94% of general surgeons' clinical questions. The General Surgery content complements the medical content that is already part of UpToDate, and allows physicians to answer questions about the broad range of medical and surgical problems they confront in caring for their patients every day.

Editors-in-Chief of the new General Surgery content are Raphael E. Pollock, MD, Professor and Head of the Division of Surgery of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and David Soybel, MD, Professor of Surgery and Chief of General Surgery for Penn State Hershey Medical Center.

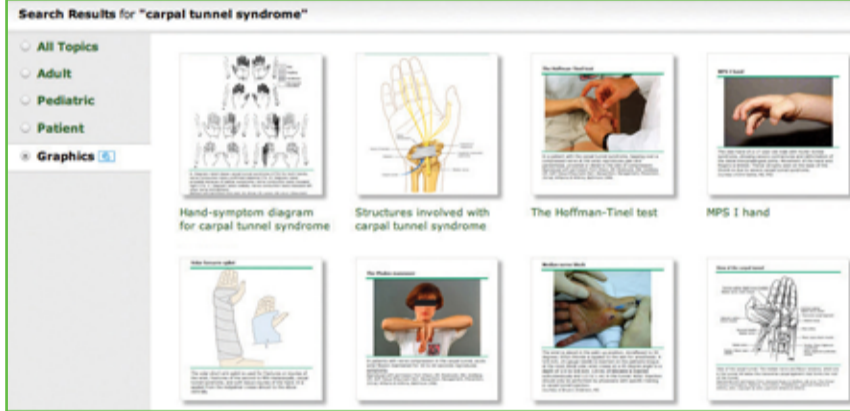
View the UpToDate in General Surgery [table of contents](#).

UpToDate Graphics Search NEW!

UpToDate's new [graphics search](#) provides quick and easy access to over 23,000 authoritative graphics, including pictures, tables, illustrations, diagrams, graphs, algorithms and movies.

With UpToDate graphics search, you can quickly find trusted graphics instead of searching the Internet.

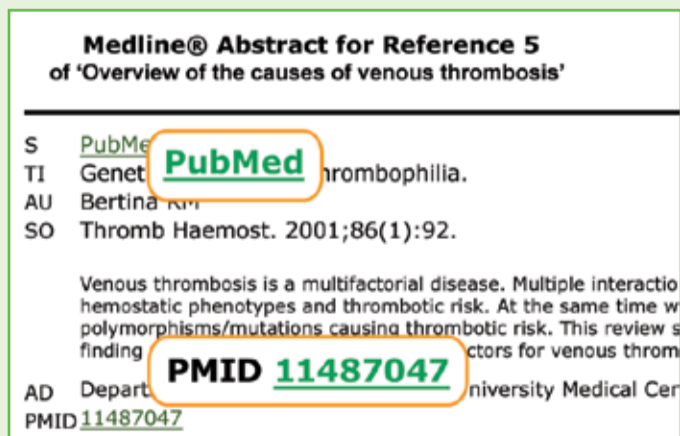
Learn how to use our new graphics search tool with this [online tutorial](#).



UpToDate PubMed Link Out NEW!

UpToDate's new [PubMed link out](#) feature now allows your institution to customize your full text linking options. By clicking on the PubMed link at the top of a Medline abstract, or on the ID number at the bottom, users can quickly go to PubMed and see if the full text of the journal article is available, as well as use the tools available through the NLM (National Library of Medicine).

To activate this feature, you will need to provide your PubMed link out URL string to your account manager. You can also customize the text of the link out button. Once activated, clinicians will be able to link out to and view the full text of the journals to which your institution subscribes.



Librarian Advisory Board Annual Meeting

Many thanks to our seven Librarian Advisory Board members who joined us in October for UpToDate's second annual Librarian Advisory Board meeting.

The international group provides input, guidance and direction throughout the year via quarterly phone meetings and an annual on-site meeting at our corporate office in Waltham, MA.

Free UpToDate Training Webinars

Do you know all the ways UpToDate can help clinicians at the point of care? Get advance notice about upcoming webinars on valuable features, new specialties and more: add yourself to our Client Connection webinar series email list. E-mail training@uptodate.com to be added to the distribution list.

User Survey: UpToDate Impacts Care

UpToDate recently conducted a 15-month user survey* at 1,300 facilities across the U.S. and Canada. We received a total of 80,750 responses from clinicians representing a variety of disciplines.

We continuously seek feedback on how to improve our product and services. Please email enterprise@uptodate.com and share your feedback with us.

* UpToDate Enterprise User Survey, US & Canada, May 2010 to August 2011 (N=80,750)



Customer Feedback

View [testimonials](#) from UpToDate customers.



Research Studies



UpToDate Interface Toolkit



Conference Schedule

We hope to see you at one of the [conferences we'll be attending!](#)