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images.MD - The Online Encyclopedia of Medical Images

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images.MD is a searchable collection of more than 70,000 medical images, charts, and tables from atlases published by The Current Medical Group LLC. Images may be saved and used for personal study or teaching.

KEYWORDS Current Medicine Group, images.MD, medical images, Springer

INTRODUCTION

images.MD is a searchable collection of more than 70,000 medical images in a wide variety of image types. The images retrieved may be saved and used in noncommercial presentations, handouts, and for teaching or study. The images.MD home page is shown in Figure 1.

CONTENT

The images available from images.MD were originally published in a series of atlases created by the Current Medicine Group LLC. As new editions or new titles are published, the images they contain are added to the product.
Current Medicine Group LLC is a division of Springer Science & Business Media LLC. The emphasis is on all the subspecialties of internal medicine. Although libraries would most likely opt to purchase the content from the entire set of atlases, the option to purchase images from individual atlases is available. Updates are added throughout the year when new titles are published.

SEARCHING images.MD

There is no shortage of ways to search images.MD. On the opening screen in the upper right is a “quick search” box, above which is an “advanced search” link. The middle section of the screen is used for listing the members of the editorial board. It would be easy to miss the search capabilities at the bottom of the main screen, which are more oriented toward browsing by Internal Medicine subspecialties and what are termed “collections.” Each of the published atlases is referred to as a “collection.” Important words from the atlas titles are used as collection names. Hunder’s *Atlas of Rheumatology* becomes the Rheumatology Collection. Some collection choices are shown in Figure 2.

Librarians may find the organizational structure of images.MD somewhat difficult to conceptualize. Specialties include “osteoporosis” and “sexual health.” Also included are specialties such as pediatrics and urology, which are not generally thought to be internal medicine.

A “browse by collection” option brings the user to a screen showing the individual sections for that collection/atlas. From there, one can select the specific topics of interest and even search from within that retrieval. A sample of collection sections is shown in Figure 3.
Once a collection or section is selected, there is an option to filter the results by one or more keyword(s), specialty, image modality, image type, most recent update, or clinical descriptors. Examples of image modalities include:

- Angiogram
- Chemical structures
Examples of image types include:

- Chart/graph
- Illustration
- Table
- Video

Examples of clinical descriptors include:

- Anatomy
- Behavior
- Epidemiology
- Treatment

Figure 4 shows the search filtering options.

Boolean searching is available in the keyword search boxes. AND, OR, NOT, phrases, and nesting are supported. The option to show images only, accompanying text only, or images with text is available as a display preference. The user is also able to select the number of slides per page to view, in increments of four, from 12 to 24.

MY SLIDES

By creating an account/login, images.MD users are able to utilize the “My Slides” feature to create and save slide sets for their personal use. The slides
must be selected one at a time, which is somewhat laborious. At this time, slides cannot be saved or downloaded directly from the Web site. Slides must be formatted as PowerPoint files using an application within images.MD. Slide sets of fewer than 20 slides may be e-mailed as an attachment. Slide sets of more than 20 slides may only be retrieved by purchasing a CD-ROM for $19.95 plus shipping and handling from the Current Medicine Group. Sets of more than 100 slides will incur an additional charge. The FAQ page indicates that 10 to 14 days is the expected delivery time. Figure 5 shows slide-set options.

The slide quality is very clear on a computer screen, but some of the tables do not translate well onto a big screen or a PowerPoint handout because there is so much text on the slide. Such slides would still be useful for personal study.

FIGURE 5 My slides.
CONCLUSION

The product is closely tied to the printed atlases, presented as it is with the “collections” of images forming the basic container with various filters for honing search results. The images are high quality, although not all are suitable for projected presentations. Some users may find the e-mailing of slides and extra cost for CD-ROM delivery of more than 20 slides to be cumbersome. The product will benefit the teaching constituency of the subscribing library the most.