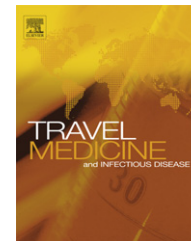


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Gideon database

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It is not up for debate whether travel medicine practitioners should have access to a travel health database. What is up for discussion though, is 'which one'? The answer to this will obviously depend upon one's needs, but there is no doubt that travel medicine practitioners, infectious disease physicians and microbiologists in need of a serious database will have to consider Gideon.

The database is accessed online, and is actually a more a set of complementary, and comprehensive, databases housing pretty much most of what you might want to know on infectious diseases, microbiology, and toxicology, the latter is an oft ignored area of risk in travel medicine; and its incorporation in Gideon could serve a significant help-mate to the perplexed diagnostician.

Help the diagnostician is in fact where Gideon really comes into its own: I do not know of any competitor service. Gideon offers the usual pre-travel health advice, sourced from the CDC's yellow book, but then adds much, much more. Each of the three major databases is organized in a user friendly way, either providing information on diseases or micro-organisms of interest, or producing a differential diagnosis for clinicians, or detailed information for travel medicine practitioners attempting to answer difficult questions, e.g. when you get asked about the hazards posed by camel's milk, or Alkhurma virus, where

are you going to turn? Well, Gideon would be a good place. Gideon would also help you to diagnose Chandipura and vesicular stomatitis virus infection in a returning traveler, or at least to consider it in your differential diagnosis.

Gideon manages to be both comprehensive and easy to use, and offers a number of very useful features, including the very thoughtful ability to e-mail information directly out of the application; a pop-up map or geographical distribution indicator is available for each disease entry.

Gideon also provides a comprehensive list of anti-infective drugs, and will answer questions on drug use, including prescribing information and drug interactions. Where relevant, penetration of drugs into the CNS is also detailed.

Professional microbiologists will also not be disappointed with Gideon, as it offers comprehensive lists of bacteria, yeasts, and viruses, and describes how they can be identified. And where they might be found too.

Gideon is a comprehensive database that will make life easier for the serious travel medicine practitioner, infectiologists, and microbiologists (both the clinical and strictly laboratory types). It deserves serious consideration.

Conflict of interest statement

None.

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