Pharmacy-Related PDA Tools Part II

PDAs are rapidly becoming popular among pharmacists in clinical, institutional and retail settings. Many programs have become available for use as reference regarding dosing, drug information and more. University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy students are now provided with PDAs during their first year, along with access to Lexi-Comp databases. In the previous issue of Tapping Into Technology, Kyle Riess, a third-year student, provided information on several PDA resources. He continues his review of resources below.

**RxCalc**
- **Creator:** Jeremy Adler MD, FAAP
- **Handheld:** Palm OS
- **Size:** 600 KB
- **Price:** Shareware $25

This program provides easy access for dosing most drugs. It is especially useful for pediatric dosing. When a dose is out of range for a selected individual, it is bolded to alert possible incorrect dosing. When finding a dose you can choose to round off to convenient dosing forms (e.g. 100mg instead of 103mg). It also provides dosing for IV and PO.

**Pros:** Very cool and easy to use interface. Looks up drugs quickly! Is compatible with multiple measurement units and is also “lefty” compatible. Has a history of recent calculation and lookups for convenience. Can rotate screen for newer PDAs.

**Cons:** This title eventually requires a $25 registration, but that isn’t too steep. 600KB size is large, but not overwhelming.

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