



ACP Web site Cookies: What you need to know

Cookies are small text-only strings of information that are transferred from an Internet browser to a computer's hard drive. Cookies identify a Web site user. They do not execute a computer command and do not deliver viruses. Cookies are unique to an individual user and can only be read by the Web site that delivered the cookie.

For optimal navigation and experience, the ACP suggests that each user accept all cookies related to the ACP Web site, www.prosthodontics.org. If all cookies are not accepted, the ACP cannot guarantee full Web site functionality. All cookies used on the ACP Web site are designed only to provide the user with a smooth and simple navigation session.

Cookies on the ACP site allow users to navigate between different pages of the Web site and to assist a member in logging in to the *Members' Only* section. When a user closes his or her Internet browser, the cookie is no longer valid. No personal data on ACP members is gathered from cookies. Cookies do however allow the ACP to know how many users have accessed which pages and sections of the Web site. This helps the College improve and expand the Web site based on usability and interest.

There are several cookies a user may encounter on the ACP Web site. A user may or may not see messages about cookies depending upon his or her Internet browser security settings. Four groups of cookies are outlined in further detail below.

The first group of cookies encountered when trying to access the homepage are:

- ASP.NET_SessionID
- ASPSESSIONID

These two cookies allow the user to enter the Web site, which uses two types of ASP programming in the site design. (Resulting in the two different ASP cookies.)

Next, when a member attempts to access the *Members' Only* area of the Web site by clicking the Member Login button from any page, the member will encounter the second group of cookies to help identify him or her as an authorized user:

- UserID
- AEUserID
- FirstName
- LastName
- FullName
- CompanyID
- Email
- Organization

The information for these cookies is populated by data pulled from the ACP database, which is integrated with the new Web site. Allowing these cookies will permit the user to navigate through the pages and various functionality of the Web site.

For example, each member's name appears with a welcome message once logged in: *Welcome, John Smith*, which comes from these cookies. The e-mail address cookie allows meeting registration and dues billing confirmations to be e-mailed to Web site users.

The third group of cookies relates to the security on the ACP Web site that allows members to access documents and resources within the *Members' Only* area:

- SecurityGroup
- Pwd

These cookies help the Web site determine which pages a member can access and which functionality within each page is available to that member. If these cookies are blocked, the member will be required to log in to each new page being accessed on the site.

Lastly, the fourth group of cookies a user will experience allow the ACP to count the number of Web site users on each page. These cookies are:

- _utma
- _utmb
- _utmc
- _utmz

The ACP gathers data to better determine which areas of the Web site are the most popular and which areas need additional materials or functionality. Users do not need to accept these cookies in order to experience full functionality of the Web site.