



An Observational Study to Find out The Published Literature in The Pubmed on Use of Medical Apps in Smartphones By Various Professionals in Medical Practice & Training

KEYWORDS

Medical Apps, Smartphone, Pubmed, Training

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ABSTRACT The observational study was conducted to find out the published literature on use of Medical apps by various Professionals in Medical Practice & Training in the Pubmed database as on 31st Mar 2016. Total of 448 publications were retrieved with search words of Apps and smartphones in Pubmed database. Data retrieved of 7 categories of Medical professional using apps in medical practice & training, revealed highest publications being 34 by Physicians, followed by 29 by students. Published use of Apps by Practitioners, Consultants, Nurses, Interns & Professors was 4,3,7,2 & 0 respectively. This study revealed the comprehensive use of apps by all categories. It showed encouraging trend of use by Students & Physicians, however, restricted use of apps by Professors, Consultants & Interns may be attitudinal or lack of awareness.

Introduction

There is rapid technological advancement and professional interest in the Smart phone based Apps in the field of Medicine.^{1,2,3,4,5} Now, the scientific world has started gaining experience on the use of Medical apps in Smartphones & has started the next phase of collating data & publishing. The relative contribution of publication of the research on this subject of use of apps by various categories of professionals in medical practice & training has not being so far analyzed. This study is designed to answer the same research question.

Aim

An observational study to find out the published literature in the Pubmed on use of Medical apps in Smartphones by various Professionals in Medical practice & training.

Material & Methods

The Pubmed search was conducted using key phrases Apps, Smartphones, various professional category names in medical practice & training as on 31st Mar 2016. The data was collated and analyzed.

Observations

The detailed data on Apps on Smartphones on Pubmed search is depicted in Table no. 1 & Figure 1.

Discussion

The study revealed that the total number of publications on the subject being 448. The publications on apps use by seven categories of Medical Professionals in medical practice & training were analyzed. The highest number of publications are on on use of Apps by Physicians being 34, followed by Students 29, Nurses 7, Practitioner 4, Consultants 3, Interns 2, while none from Professors. There is no other published analysis of this topic. Therefore, more use of apps, research & publications are needed by suboptimal user categories of Professors, Consultants, Practitioners & Interns. It will need an attitudinal change & increased awareness about apps utility in medical practice & training.

Conclusions

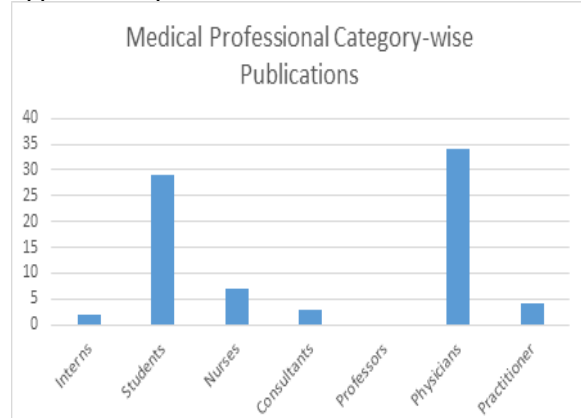
This observational study extracted the number of publications from the Pubmed database on the use of Medical

apps in Smartphones by various Professional categories in Medical practice & training. It revealed that the various categories are using apps & publishing. There is significant lack of publication on use of apps by important categories of senior doctors who are opinion makers & interns the beginners in the medical field.

Table 1: Category- wise Pubmed Publications on Apps in smartphones

S.N.	Category	Publications
1	Interns	2
2	Students	29
3	Nurses	7
4	Consultants	3
5	Professors	0
6	Physicians	34
7	Practitioner	4

Figure 1: Category-wise publications in the Pubmed on Apps in Smartphones



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