



USE OF THE INTERNET FOR PATIENT CARE IN TERTIARY CARE TEACHING HOSPITALS

Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Background: The Internet is the world's largest network of information, communication and services. Although the Internet is widely used in medicine and has made significant impact in research, training and patient care, few studies had explored the extent to which physicians use Internet resources for patient care. The objective of this study was to assess physicians' use of the Internet for health information for patient care.

Method: 1200 Physicians anonymous, standardized questionnaire various Medical College Hospital in Tamil Nadu. Out of 1200, 1112 filled the questionnaire this study was taken in march 2017

Results: When compared to western doctors (86%) 91 percent of doctors using internet and many of them subscribed to free internet journals (83%) and apps (68%)

Conclusion: The internet made a great change in the reading habit of doctors many of them compare the efficacy of the drugs, drug interaction, contra indication and see the dosage adjustments in renal and hepatic diseases thus the use of internet information is more in doctors than in patients

KEYWORDS:

Introduction

Physicians' use of the Internet for health information for patient care was widespread. Increasingly, physicians are turning to the Internet for professional development, and they intend to do so more often in the future.

The Most common reason physicians seek information on the Internet is to solve a specific patient problem.

In pursuing professional development on the Internet, Physicians expect the access to information will be immediate easy to use, relevant, and credible.

Based on the physician's need for information on a specific patient problem adopting case-based learning as a component of the design of on-line continuing medical education courses will enhance the utility of on line courses.

Roles of the continuing education provider must be reshaped to include all modes of internet such as face book, whatsapp, power points presentation in net physicians seek and construct the kind of knowledge they need to improve patient care.

Over the past 10 years, physician use of the Internet.

Table 1 Physician Experience in Internet Use (%)

Electronic mail	98%	1089
Personal use	98%	1089
Literature searching	76%	845

Searching for Medical Information	83%	922
Professional Association Updates	52%	578
Accessing on-line journals	68%	756
Continuing Medical Education	66%	733
Searching for specific patient information	78%	867
Consultation with colleagues	68%	756
Filing insurance claims	39%	433
Participating in Clinical trials	12%	133
Writing prescriptions/patient orders	46%	511

Table 2 Physician Internet Beliefs

	Per (%)	No.
Belief in professional value Internet to physicians	88%	978
Belief better care can be provided using the Internet	76%	845
Belief Internet will improve patient-physician Communication	20%	222
Belief Internet will save money for the health care System	41%	455

Table 3 Physician Motivation for Internet Searching for Medical Information

	Per (%)	No.
Particular patient problem	76%	845
Scanning new information in a Disease area	88%	978
Latest research on specific topic	64%	711
New product information	56%	622
Specific drug dosage	98%	1089

Table 4 Physician Perceptions of Largest Barrier to Internet Use (%)

	Per (%)	No.
Too much information to scan	10%	111
Not able to find information	22%	244
Inadequate searching skills	12%	133
Slowness of loading information	18%	200
Need for additional software plug-ins	10%	111

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