Impact of E-learning in Medical Science

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ABSTRACT

The atmosphere in which medical students learn today is greatlydiverse than it was 15 to 20 years ago when the Internet was not such a leading tool in medical education. E-learning platforms are now increasingly utilized by medical society around the world and comprise adaptive tutorials, audiovisual clips, and virtual models. These educational media possess several distinct advantages over traditional teaching models of instruction, including the ability to update material in a timely manner to ensure delivery of the latest evidence-based content to trainees. E-learning has been demonstrated to be as effective as conventional teaching and can be used to promote self-directed learning. It encourages medical students to exert greater control over their learning by allowing flexibility over content and pace. In such models, educators can evaluate competencies objectively through online assessments, enabling students to receive personalized feedback for self-improvement.E-learning will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the environment in which future medical students learn. The gradual shift towards e-learning is seen as a catalyst for applying adult learning theory, which will see more medical educators taking on the role of facilitator and assessor of competency.Most medical students view e-learning as enjoyable and effective but, interestingly, do not see it replacing traditional teaching methods. Indeed, e-learning is often a complement to instructor-led methods in a blended approach. Studies on nursing and medical students have demonstrated that satisfaction is consistently higher in a blended learning environment compared with a traditional lecture setting. Further research is needed to establish the role of blended learning in medical education.Medical educators should continue to engage with e-learning in an effort to come up with innovative approaches to train medical students.

Keywords: E-learning, medical science, conventional teaching, teaching models.