

Telemedicine - innovation or everyday life?

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1st International Conference on Telemedicine and Multimedia
Communication, Kajetany, 10-12.10.2003

Technology is important way to improve care under a patient

"We have to realise that telerobotics and telesurgery aren't victory for technology but for patient care"
(Telerobotics bring surgical skills to remote communities - LANCET May 24, 2003 ;361:1794-1795)

Network is more than technology

"Our world, and our lives, are being shaped by the conflicting trends of globalization and identity. The information technology revolution, and the restructuring of capitalism, have induced a new form of society, the network society. It is characterized by the globalization of strategically decisive economic activities. By the networking form of organization... By a culture of real virtuality constructed by a pervasive, interconnected, and diversified media system. And by the transformation of material foundations of life, space and time, as expressions of dominant activities and controlling elites... It is indeed, brave or not, a new world."
-Manuel Castells, *The Power of Identity*



During creation of each medical network project we must answer question:

Who - (patients, families, supportive groups, medical professionals only) will join (created by us) virtual community. If the service were provided for professionals, it should be decided, if the service will be free for all or any form of restriction giving access only for physicians (patients) will be established. Now are the trends to give access for professionals or patients (interested with problems groups of peoples) only, but this is questionable, if the methods of identification used by known medical portals (who is doctor, who not) can properly distinguish professionals from others (lay peoples).

Medical staff - it is very important to establish the scientific board of any medical services or professional medical project realised in Internet (virtually) as this is usually made in non-virtual. This should assure the medical quality and establish the professional value. The known authorities will be responsible for guarding the scientific position of our initiative.

Technology - this is very important point to create the virtual initiative in medicine. Technology allows ability to perform all, what is associated with data collecting, information transfer and virtual contacts. Technology must be safe and take into consideration security as well as confidentiality (privacy).

(Scientific) methodology - is strong associated with project and consultations by medical staff. Here it should be provided with the methods of statistical analysing, comparing results with goals, evaluating and formulating outcomes of the study.

Feedback - gives the ability to contact with "external world" or with all participants of any project. The opinion should be collected and analysed.

A future of telemedicine summarize medicine, technology, social and mental, cultural changes, which enable doctors and their patients to communicate remotely each day