

Medical interns' clinical skills acquisition and self-confidence levels: Enhanced via video iPods?

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Creating an engaging, sustaining, and convenient learning experience that promotes self-regulated learning and purposeful knowledge construction for medical students is important. The authors set out to investigate the effects of educational videos delivered via the ubiquitous video iPod on medical interns' competency to perform female and male urinary catheterizations and self-confidence levels. Catheterized patients are at an increased risk of device-associated hospital-acquired infection and urinary catheterization is one of the first invasive procedures learnt by health care students. Furthermore, it is a procedure often left to junior staff that may not be confident in performing the skill. Therefore, learning correct technique is paramount in order to decrease morbidity and the cost of medical care. Educators may take advantage of current mobile technologies, such as Apple Computer's video iPod, in order to deliver educational materials and provide opportunities for necessary repetition of learning.

In August 2007 a pre-post study involving 21 final year medical students was conducted to determine if viewing a skill-related video via an iPod would enhance students' urinary catheterization skills and self-confidence levels. Participants were randomly assigned to two groups: video iPod and control. Each group was given a pre-post-course questionnaire after which they were examined for skill acquisition and then re-examined with the same metrics following a three-month intervention period. At the time of the writing the three-month retest is occurring and the data will be analyzed and reported.ⁱ

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