

April 2007

An Emerging Technology: To Model Patient Education for the Dental Hygiene Student

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Recommended Citation

Citation Information:Wetmoer, Ann O. BSDH, "An Emerging Technology: To Model Patient Education for the Dental Hygiene Student" (2007).

DigitalCommons@TMC, Advances in Teaching and Learning Day, *Advances in Teaching and Learning Day Abstracts*. Paper 62.

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Livestream Video:

An Emerging Technology:

To model patient education for the dental hygiene student, Ann O Wetmoer, BSDH. UTHSC-H Dental School, Houston, TX, 77382.

Introduction

Could Livestream Video, an emerging audiovisual media, be used more effectively than the traditional demonstration method of teaching or modeling dental hygiene students on how to provide chairside patient education?

Purpose

Research suggests that students have identified clinical demonstration (when a clinical teacher provides patient care while a student (or students) observes the procedure in the clinic) or modeling, as well as observing the "expert", as a positive aspect of clinical education (Gerzina, et al., 2005, Henderson, et al, 2006). The Media Richness Theory of Communication (Lengel & Daft, 1984) frames Livestream Video technology. Livestream Video has the capacity of the medium to transmit multiple cues such as body language, voice tone, and inflection; the use of natural language; and the personal focus of the medium. One drawback to Livestream Video is the absence of person-to person feedback, an integral part of clinical learning that lends depth to the media.

Methods

Links to access a Livestream Video, modeling patient education, were provided to the randomly selected, one-half (Group A) of the voluntary, first year, dental hygiene student participants at the University of Texas Dental Branch. The other one-half (Group B) served as the control. Coded, Likert scale pre-post tests using the cognitive and affective domains of learning (Bloom, n.d.) as well as anecdotal student comments were evaluated.

Results

50% of the students participated. Pre-post test scores demonstrated a highly statistical significance ($P > 0.001$) in the affective domain objectives and a highly statistical significance ($P = 0.001$) in the cognitive domain objectives. Students anecdotally found the Livestream video to be a helpful adjunct educational tool in learning how to provide patient education.

Conclusion

More longitudinal studies need to be conducted to determine if Livestream video is an effective emerging technology that can be used by educators to model patient education strategies for dental hygiene students.