

Interactive Simulation of Patients

Background

A central theme in the education of dentists and physicians - and for the education of health care professionals in general - is to enable the students to identify and solve clinical problems. It is an important goal that they also have a confidence in their own capacity of solving such problems.

An important component in the education has thus been patient centered items. Usually there has been some form of a combination of traditional lectures, small group tutorials and meetings with patients. During the clinical training students should preferably meet as many patients as possible with important and typical illnesses.

This part of their education contains a number of problems, including that students usually do not see a complete scenario from the beginning of the diagnostic process to the end of the healing process. Most often they do not even see more than a part of the diagnostic process. The safety and integrity of the patients should never be jeopardized.

This means that students cannot take a complete responsibility for the care of the patients in spite of the well-known learning incitement of responsibility. Finally, the ongoing change of treating more and more patients outside the hospitals diminishes the number of educational cases in the university hospitals.

