

Special Issue

The Virtual Patient Technology for Medical Education

Message from the Guest Editors

One of the main tasks that physicians carry out is diagnosing patients, which is crucial to obtain an adequate explanation for the disease process in an operational way that allows differential diagnosis, increasing the probability of coming to a correct diagnosis and excluding others and, in this way, establishing the path for the application of treatments according to state of the art in medicine. This approach should consider disease-related issues and the patient's characteristics and thus requires adequate communication. It is important this is carried out in an adequate time frame, avoiding unnecessary interventions and considering patient safety. Virtual patient technology can also simulate patients in several ways, facilitating training, reducing the need for real patient exposure, and providing adequate casuistic and standardized presentations. Virtual patients can be presented in many forms and used for most of the components of the usual patient approach: history and physical examination, complementary testing, and even response to treatment.

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