Youtube Videos in Medical Education at the Medical University Hospital Graz

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Background:
The vast and easy access to medical videos on Youtube added a huge value to free medical education. However, only a few studies have analyzed the role of medical videos on Youtube for surgeons, physicians and medical students. Aim of this survey was to analyze how commonly Youtube videos are used among physicians, surgeons and medical students at the Medical University Hospital Graz.

Methods:
We conducted this survey between January and March 2017 at the Medical University Hospital Graz, Graz, Austria. On routine weekdays physicians and surgeons at the Medical University Hospital Graz were asked to answer the following 4 questions: In what profession do you work? How old are you? Have you ever watched a Youtube video for professional reasons (e.g. to prepare for a procedure or examination technique)? If so, was it useful? The sex of the respondent was also noted. Third year medical students were asked during a lecture whether they have been shown a Youtube video for teaching purposes during a lecture before and whether they have watched a Youtube video for study purposes e.g. while preparing for an exam.

Results:
A total of 73 physicians or surgeons were asked to contribute to this survey, of which 56 (76.1%) answered the survey. Of these 56 respondents 36 were male (64.3%) and 20 were female (35.7%). 28 (50%) worked at the department of surgery and 24 (42.9%) worked at the department for internal medicine. 2 respondents (3.6%) worked as anesthesiologists and 1 (1.8%) worked as a general physician.

50 out of 56 (89.3%) indicated to have watched a Youtube video for professional reasons, of which 46 (92%) indicated that the video was helpful. Of the 57 medical students asked, 50 (87.7%) indicated that they have been shown a Youtube video during a lecture in medical school and 52 out of 57 (91.2%) indicated that they have watched a Youtube video at home to prepare for an exam.

Discussion:
The vast majority of physicians, surgeons and medical students indicated that they have watched a Youtube video for medical purposes and that it was helpful. Our results support previous findings, that medical videos on Youtube are an established and important tool in medical education and Youtube represents a rich educational resource in medicine.

Conclusion:
Youtube videos are an important source of information for medical students and physicians, thus attention should be paid on the quality of these videos.
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