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Technology Use in Patient Education: A Review of the Literature

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What We Learned

Integrating technology into traditional patient teaching allows for specialized and reliable content to be delivered in a convenient and cost effective manner to enhance patient learning outcomes.

Purpose
To review the literature on the impact of technology integration and traditional patient education on patient learning outcomes.

Background
- Patient education is one of the primary roles in nursing to:
  - improve and maintain client health
  - prevent illness and injury
  - promote client’s functional status in altered health states
- Technological advances:
  - require new teaching modalities
  - may enhance patient learning

Results
Although technology continues to be used in improving patient learning outcomes, it should not be viewed as a replacement for traditional teaching methods. A balance between the two would be beneficial to avoid depersonalization of the nurse-patient interaction.

Methods
- Databases: Summon OneSearch and CINAHL
- Search Terms: telehealth, patient education, patient teaching, patient learning outcomes and technology
- Publications 2008-2014
- Research articles only

Next Steps
- Explore balance between traditional teaching and technological modalities to avoid depersonalization
- Conduct randomized control trials to determine the relationship between technological interventions and patient learning outcomes

Conclusions
- Direct clients to reliable resources
- Further develop technological resources for patient learning
- Adapt nursing curricula to reflect technological advances

Limitations
- Lack of randomized control trials to determine causal relationships
- Limited nursing research regarding nursing interventions and best practices

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