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Live Interactive Surgical Tele-Workshop on Rhinoplasty - A Tele-CME case study

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Abstract

This paper is based on a Live Interactive Tele-Surgical Workshop on Rhinoplasty conducted by the departments of ENT & Plastic Surgery in association with the Malabar branch of the Association of Otorhinolaryngologists of India. The Centre for Tele-Health & Medical Informatics co-ordinated the CME. IP based VSAT telemedicine connectivity provided by the Indian Space research Organisation (ISRO) is confined to a small telemedicine room with limited capacity. We have extended the facility with minimal cost to two more lecture halls of different capacities and Operation Theatres.

As a part of the workshop, a Rhinoplasty was done by the mentor from an operation theatre which was viewed and interacted upon by CME participants situated one at the lecture hall of our own institution (less than half a kilometre apart) and secondly and most importantly from the Tele-medicine conference hall at the Thiruvananthapuram Medical Colege. (More than 500 kilometre apart.) All three centres viz. Operation theatre, lecture hall and the remote centre could interact with the other two centres. Such a programme was conducted for the first time in the Kerala State Tele-Medicne network. Using the technology available then, only one remote centre could be catered. But attempts to multicast such programmes to many centres is nearing completion and even that would be possible in a month.

The various challenges, the problems faced by our team and our attempts to solve will also be described in this paper and it is hoped that it will give some lessons for all those who are planning to utilise the technology in Universities and teaching centres in low resource settings..

Keywords:

telemedicine, telehealth, surgical education

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