



REVIEW ARTICLE

WHATS APP AND DENTISTRY... IS THERE A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

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ABSTRACT

With the upcoming advanced technologies in the world one of the latest and innovative technology is the use of various applications of smart phones. One of the latest software application used is the Whats App. This is a highly debatable topic as to whether it is a boon or a curse! This article reviews on use of smart phone app "Whats app" in dentistry with its various advantages.

Key words:

Whatsapp,
Software,
Dentistry.

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INTRODUCTION

Effective use of smartphones is part of how doctors and patients communicate in the 21st century. Use of smart phone is immensely useful in clinical practice of medicine as well as dentistry. Extremely sophisticated and efficient cameras associated with smartphones help to capture excellent high-quality images of clinical pictures, X-rays, computed tomography scan, magnetic resonance imaging. Nowadays, sharing patients data via messenger service within no time has emerged as an excellent tool for obtaining second opinion on diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and follow-up of the patients. Various broadcast facilities of Whats App has helped it to evolve as a telemedicine platform for facilitating remote oral medicine consultation and improving clinical examination (Petruzzi, 2016). Oral cancer is one of the major global threats to public health (Takuji, 2011). There is a tremendous increase in various facilities for molecular advancements' in oral cancer diagnosis; still its mortality rate is very high. Various reasons can be attributed to delayed diagnosis like the financial problems of many patients who are at risk of developing oral cancer, education of the public (A Jafari, 2013). As we know various premalignant lesions can lead to oral cancer; people

if have an approach to such applications of smart phones can visualize their oral cavities ,click photographs and consult various dentist and other health professionals thereby what's app can help as an adjunctive and faster tool in diagnosis of oral cancer as well as help in second opinion. Patients with such disorders can be constantly in touch with their dental specialist via WhatsApp (continuous follow-up) for any change in the clinical appearance of the lesion without wasting any more precious time. Moreover, patients can take their selfies of the oral lesions and seek opinion from the expert (SarodeSc, 2016). Whtas app has emerged as a cross platform for exchange of various audios, videos, clinical images via internet. It not only saves time but also provides with a more clarity in picture and aids in transferring pictures to long distances within no time! Simple and easy comparing, consulting various pathologist for biopsy of various lesions of oral cavity facilities the diagnostic pathway. Another interesting area to exploit with the use of WhatsApp is forensic odontology. The incidence of mass disasters has increased in recent years and its credit goes to global warming, increased air transportation, terrorist attacks, communal violence, etc., Identification in mass disasters is necessary for many reasons such as personal, social and legal reasons, including certification of death (Shailesh, 2009 and Neha Bansal, 2013). Personal identification is necessary for any unknown deceased person in cases of homicide, suicide, accident, mass disaster

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etc. Antemortem records can be matched with the postmortem records via faster sharing via whatsapp software to the forensic expert thereby saving time and reaching to an early decision on site of disaster. Groups of specialized professionals of various fields can be created and the information of various cases can be shared on group chats; thuswhats app can play a pivotal role in transferring various images and important data information. Thus hoping social media to emerge and revolutionize the world with its positive aspects it can lead to a communication bridge amongst various health professionals for future prospects. Although this glamorous messenger service appears to have very successful journey ahead, it cannot be used as a substitute for the conventional method. Further research need to be carried out for a wide array of knowledge.

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