

Research Assessment #3

Date: September 17, 2021

Subject: Digital Future of Dermatology

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Glines, K. R, Haidari, W., Ramani, L., Akkurt, Z. M, & Feldman, S. R. (2020). Digital future of dermatology. *Dermatology Online Journal*, 26(10). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5070/D32610050455>
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Assessment:

As the Independent Study and Mentorship course has progressed, I have become knowledgeable regarding the general aspects of Dermatology. In Research Assessment #2, I chose to examine how COVID-19 has altered the practice of dermatological procedures as it will be an important proponent to consider in the duration of my mentorship. Subsequently, I was able to grasp an advanced understanding of how technological innovations are being integrated into consultations, diagnoses, etc. Principally, I have started to investigate various sub topics (specifically centralizing my research to technology).

With this being said, I analyzed a peer-reviewed report titled “Digital Future of Dermatology” which was published on the database Pubmed.

To offer a basic synopsis of the article's content, technological advancements were primarily discussed as they are utilized more often. Furthermore, these advancements allow for a more time-efficient/accurate treatment of skin diseases and facilitate the education of the general public. Some examples include teledermatology, *VisualDx*, *YouDermoscopy*, *MyDermPath*, etc (Glines). I found it interesting how digital dermatology can prevent the amount of specific diseases as advanced technology increases patient awareness/prevention. An example mentioned in the article discusses how a smartphone application can evaluate the amount of ultraviolet radiation exposure by calculating the users level of risk based on their distinctive skin-type. Collectively, this information enabled the process of critical thinking and aided in the development of the Original Work. While reading, I found myself reflecting on how each

designer of the smartphone applications mentioned previously went about making their innovation accurate (providing users with a factual diagnosis and treatment options such as dermatological drugs, ointment/cream, etc). Though it is important to note that these applications are not approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) meaning physicians are not permitted to utilize this self-diagnostic tool in interpersonal consultations as many issues presently remain with their format/details (Glines).

To further my understanding with the content researched, I would like to become knowledgeable regarding the steps necessary to get smartphone applications approved by the FDA. In addition, it would be helpful to be aware of how this technological innovation is flawed. Within the article, the topic was briefly discussed but did not offer any further details. Conclusively, digital dermatology is beginning to become a main component of medicine and should be studied to stay up-to-date on valuable resources. Although most of the data provided in the article depicted beneficial aspects of technology, there are many notable disadvantages which slightly discouraged me personally. As teledermatology becomes increasingly available to the general public, the demand for practicing specialists decreases substantially. In turn, the need for teaching professors will also decline as in-person clinical teaching is modifying to a digitally based education (Glines).

In conclusion, I enjoyed being presented with a variety of technological advancements that are being created within Dermatology. As I continue to learn more about this subtopic, I am looking to find more information on the underlying components of applications. Ultimately, I would like to create one designated to a specific disease such as vitiligo during the Independent Study and Mentorship program after reading this article.