

Virtual Patients for Education, Assessment and Research

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Nowadays, virtual patients are becoming increasingly essential for high-quality medical education since there are not enough actual patients available for educational and training purposes. The lack of patients is caused by several reasons: Some diseases are seasonal, patients with severe diseases cannot serve as educational subjects for a large number of medical students and the average stay time of patients in hospitals has decreased over the last years. However, development and curricular integration of virtual patients is challenging and time consuming. This lecture gives an overview on relevant aspects of development and usage of virtual patients for education, assessment and research. It also shows the current state of development as well as perspectives and future challenges.