

The need to get much more ready for online dermatology education: a lesson from COVID-19 pandemic

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The new coronavirus (SARS-COV2) pandemic has significantly affected dermatology as well as many other health professions both in the field of medical practice and education. Medical education has been dramatically affected and altered during the current pandemic situation regarding the need to consider social or better to say “physical” distancing as the main issue to control the virus spreading. As the pandemic continues to spread, traditional medical education including in-person classes, conferences, outpatient clinic and bedside teaching is being promptly replaced by numerous modalities of online education. These alterations seem not to be so new and have already occurred for many years in the developed world, but developing countries encountered some limits even for its partial implementation ¹.

The current challenge of COVID-19 has warned all the dermatology societies to get much more ready to learn and use online teaching as a major tool of education to prevent any substantial delay in either undergraduate or postgraduate dermatology education in this pandemic era. It would be great to design and develop an online learning platform to augment dermatology education. A platform where many educational items in different aspects of dermatology such as medical, and procedural fields could be shared to improve the quality of education ^{1,2}. Fortunately, there are valuable experiences to use different online platforms to perform virtual dermatology education as webinars, online lectures, resident journal clubs, slide conferences, or book-reviews

during the previous months of the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran. However, most of us have faced some problems during these online courses, some related to the quality of internet connections and some others due to our limited experiences to use these online platforms. However, I feel this pandemic era could be a valuable chance for us to improve our abilities to adopt these more modern ways of education. I hope that this pandemic ends in the not too distant future and there would be many days when we all could gather in person again. Although online education would never replace the need for live education of residents and dermatologists, it would be definitely an important part of dermatology education in the future.

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