



SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TOOL FOR SURGICAL EDUCATION

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Introduction

Social media is emerging as an education tool that augments traditional surgical teaching and learning. There are a growing number of participating platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Telegram. Professional medical associations and surgeons are also developing closed social media groups to discuss challenging cases, cutting edge techniques, and other topics.

Objective

This literature review was conducted to determine the current status of social media in surgical education, and to better understand ethical aspects of its use.

Methods

PubMed was searched using the terms “social media”, “education”, “surgery”, and “surgical training”.

Results

More than 200 manuscripts were identified (2011-19), and 25 key manuscripts were selected for review here. Common themes identified were: (1) an increasing number of social media platforms are participating in surgical education, consultation, collaboration, and mentorship; (2) social media use is exploding amongst younger demographics and geographically-challenged audiences; and (3) ongoing risks include lack of oversight, auditing, peer review, quality control, data confirmation, protection of patient privacy, protection of surgeon privacy, and professionalism.

Autores	Revista	Ano
Lima, DL et al.	Journal of Min Ac. Surgery	2018
Fanti Silva, DA et al.	Am Surg	2018
Stephen CQ et al.	J Surg Res	2018
Bittner JG 4th et al.	Surg Endosc	2019
Ovaere S et al.	J Surg Educ	2018
Hong FC et al.	Colorectal Dis.	2018
Jackson HT et al.	Surg Endosc	2018
Luc JGY et al.	Am J Surg	2018
Petrucci AM et al.	Clin Colon Rectal Surg	2017
Myers CG et al.	Ann Surg	2018
Jones DB et al.	Surg Endosc	2017
López-Jornet P et al.	Support Care Cancer	2017
Langenfeld SJ et al.	J Surg Educ	2016
Frongia G et al.	J Surg Educ	2016
Evans CH et al.	Surg Clin North Am	2016
O'Kelly B et al.	Ir Med J.	2015
Reames BN et al.	J Surg Educ	2016
Autores	Revista	Ano
Rouch JD et al.	J Surg Educ	2015
Vohra RS et al.	JAMA Surg	2015
Ralston MR et al.	Int J Surg	2014
Langenfeld SJ et al.	J Surg Educ	2014
Raikos A et al.	Anat Sci Educ	2014
Blackmur JP et al.	Surgeon	2013
Azu MC et al.	Am Surg	2012
Warshaw AL et al.	Surgery	2011

Conclusion

Social media platforms where surgeons discuss challenging cases and topics, share videos, seek input from seasoned colleagues, collaborate on projects, and otherwise contribute to surgical education are being widely adopted, and they are believed to be contributing to an improved treatment of surgical disease. Limited oversight of social media requires that participating surgeons exercise critical thinking, good judgment, and professionalism.