

Evaluation of a simulation tool in ophthalmology: application in teaching funduscopy

Avaliação do uso de um instrumento de simulação em oftalmologia: aplicação no ensino da fundoscopia

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the study with the above title by Androwiki, which reported regarding the funduscopy simulator device, that published in the ABO February 2015 edition⁽¹⁾. My team and I published a similar article entitled "Teaching ophthalmology at university medical undergraduate course: comparative study of direct ophthalmoscopy between conventional ophthalmoscope and wide field ophthalmoscope (panoptic) as evaluation method" in Revista Brasileira de Oftalmologia⁽²⁾.

We agree with the authors that teaching funduscopy through a new type of device is feasible; however, some considerations are required.

a) In ophthalmology, the teaching of the beginners may be complicated by eye fundus difficulties, such as high-refraction errors, small pupils, and lens opacities. The same difficulties are faced among physicians in other specialties^(2,4).

b) Limitations with simulators are known in several subspecialties (mainly surgical ones); however, in this particular study, the association with a wide-field direct ophthalmoscope could facilitate this type of teaching^(2,3).

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