

Peer Review

Review of: "Virtual Reality in Medical Education: Prometheus' Gift or Pandora's Box?"

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This is a narrative review that approaches, in a rather stochastic and philosophical way, the nuances of virtual reality and, to some extent, its intersection with medical education. It lacks the reliability of a systematic review or a meta-analysis; however, it should be underlined that current literature is not adequate to support the latter approaches. The present work provides some definitions with regard to many terms we hear in our daily practice and arguably clarifies some misconceptions.

The main issue is that it has no specific aim, therefore no specific study design, and eventually no particular reporting axis. It briefly touches on certain aspects, but rather superficially. The exact intersection of VR and medical education is at best summarized in key statements, arguably supported by random citations. In fact, there are also some inaccuracies in the text, for example, the suggestion that non-stereoscopic VR is less expensive than stereoscopic VR, which is actually the other way round.

If the aim of the article is to be used as an introduction to familiarize laypeople or VR-naïve medical educators with VR, possibly as an editorial in a special issue or an introductory chapter in a textbook, then I can say it could serve the purpose. I am not sure it qualifies, though, as a stand-alone piece of research. In that case, I would recommend that the authors should focus on a specific area of VR/medical education, such as effectiveness, curriculum availability, or global spreading, etc., to decide on the approach based on existing targeted literature and implement a scoping or a systematic review, to design an appropriate corresponding methodology, and to convert the whole manuscript to a structured report with a specific aim.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.