

Rapid Responses to:

LETTERS:

William A M Cutting

Video clip is worth 1000 words

BMJ 2007; 335: 527 [\[Full text\]](#)

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Rapid Responses published:

▼ 1000 words are useful in treatment too!

Andrew J Ashworth (15 September 2007)

▼ Interactive CD/DVDs on emergency maternal and child healthcare

David P Southall (20 September 2007)

1000 words are useful in treatment too!

15 September 2007

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Cutting observes that "telephone triage" of ill children, though important, may be "dangerous" because examination is less available in this circumstance. He further argues that screen images of sick children are good enough to train those who have to assess sick children.

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[Re: 1000 words are useful in treatment too!](#)

Most parents (even the most socially deprived) now have access to mobile phones with video recording facilities that may be transmitted immediately through the mobile phone network. If screen images are good enough for teaching, they may be good enough to aid assessment.

Centralised or out of hours services could easily and inexpensively be enhanced to permit parents to transmit video images of sick children for assessment by a suitably trained clinician.

Modern technology in the form of video clips should not only play a part in training but in treatment!

Competing interests: None declared

Interactive CD/DVDs on emergency maternal and child healthcare

20 September 2007

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Dr Cutting in his letter of 15 September 2007 refers to the value of video clips in managing illness in children. Readers might like to be aware of two CD and DVD Roms available from the humanitarian aid agency Childhealth Advocacy International (CAI) prepared in collaboration with the Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG).

Send response to journal:
[Re: Interactive CD/DVDs on emergency maternal and child healthcare](#)

The first of these is entitled 'Advanced Paediatric Life Support; The Practical Approach, a companion disc to the fourth edition', and the second 'Essential Surgical Skills and Emergency Maternal and Neonatal Healthcare'. Both are interactive, "up to date", and "evidence based". Each contains more than 110 video recordings, lasting from up to one minute to 20 minutes in duration. There are also a large number of pictures, charts and care pathways in each CD/DVD. For those wishing to use the material for teaching, the DVD versions contain high resolution video

recordings.

By selling these CDs or DVDs in rich countries, CAI and ALSG are promoting the development of the Essential Surgical Skills- Emergency and Maternal Child Health (ESS-EMCH) programme in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. All profits from sales in rich countries such as the UK are supporting training and essential equipment for poor countries.

Further information on these teaching materials and on the ESS-EMCH programme is available on the CAI website (www.caiuk.org/projects)

Yours sincerely

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