

A PILOT STUDY: USING A COMPUTER AND CD-ROM FOR HIV PATIENT EDUCATION IN RURAL HIV CLINICS

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Abstract

The needs for local specific HIV patient educational programs for persons with HIV in rural areas have been recognized. Although utilization of computer technology is promoted to improve the outcomes of services for HIV care, little is known about the effectiveness of educational interventions using computer technology for the clients who receive their care in rural HIV clinics. A computer-assisted HIV patient education program, which requires learners' interaction, has been developed in Microsoft Power Point computer program utilizing audio-visual effect.

Purpose: The purpose of this pilot study is to test the feasibility of implementing a computer assisted HIV educational program using teaching modules on CD-ROM in rural areas. The specific aims of the study include: (1) to test whether the targeted population is able to use the program for their learning experience; (2) to evaluate the effectiveness of the program on patient knowledge about HIV, AIDS, and treatments; and (3) to explore the relationships between knowledge about HIV/AIDS/treatments, motivation to adhere to prescribed drug therapies, and adherence.

Method: This study will use a descriptive correlational design and an one-group pretest and posttest design. Fifteen participants who are diagnosed with HIV infection in rural Georgia within six month will be recruited using a purposive snow-ball sampling technique. Data on participants' demographic characteristics, motivation to adhere to treatments, and adherence rate to HIV medications will be collected before participating in the computerized education program. Data on knowledge about HIV/AIDS and treatments will be collected before and after participating in the program. At the end, the researcher will ask the participants' feedback regarding the usefulness of the computerized education program and the instruments used for the study. Data analyses will include descriptive statistics (demographic data), multiple regression (the relationship between knowledge and motivation and adherence) and a paired t-test (pre- and post-test knowledge scores).

Findings and Discussion: will be added later.