Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2020

Project Title: A pictures tells a thousand words

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Branch: D&T

Path of Excellence: None

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, please include your contact information or any other details you would like to share here:

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Summary:

Photographs, while used heavily in fields such as dermatology, are very underutilized in the current UM clinical practice. Particularly for wounds, skin lesions, and other clinically visible pathology, a simple photograph included in a patient's note and chart can offer much more data than text. In this project we aimed to utilize clinical photographs in MiChart to track post-kidney transplant surgical site wounds in the daily progress note during the post-operative hospitalization.

Methodology:

Ten patients who underwent kidney transplant in the fall of 2019 had daily post-operative surgical site wound photos taken and these images were included in their daily progress note and discharge summary.

Results:

None of the patients had a surgical site infection or wound dehiscence.

Conclusion:

With recent advances in technology and improvements in MiChart, photography can and should be used to document skin lesions, wounds, and other clinically visible pathology.

Reflection/Impact Statement:

This small cohort quality improvement project is just the beginning of utilization of photographs for documentation of wound, skin, and other visible pathology. By utilizing photographs, communication between providers (such as between primary teams and in-hospital consultants, inpatient teams and primary care providers, and prior admission teams and emergency department providers) regarding a patient and his/her visible pathology will be improved. This project can be carried out for similar post-operative wounds on other services, for skin lesions or wounds at primary care clinics, for emergency department visits, etc.