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Internet-based distance learning model for teaching in Computerizes visual field.

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Purpose: Little effort has been directed by the universities to prepare both students and professors to deal with an age where information can be acquired in most different ways, not only by books and classes but through computerized meanssuch as CD-ROM and the Interned.

Objective: This Paper aims to create a method of teaching-learning are distance capable of providing Knowledge and information about the interpretation of the computerized visual field exams through the internet using the Problem Based Learning method. And also evaluate the efficiency os the method mentioned above in solving the problems presented by the computerized visual field exams.

Methods: Sixty medical students (33 from the general residency program ands 27 residents from the university's Department of Ophthalmology) were selected and provided an Internet access to the full content of the computerized visual field exam course. This course was based on the problem based learning method in which the students are stimulated to engage in acquiring information pro-actively. Any communication and also evaluation, between teachers and students, were only made with the resources available through the Internet. A control group, formed by students who did not take the course throught the Internet, was submitted to the same evaluation questions.

Results: At the end of the course, 21 pages were developed in html, 11 images of computerized visual field exam were presented and 9 problems with 36 questions were submitted to the students. Most of the students were between 20 and 30 years old (57.3%), about 67.1% of them were from Sao Paulo state and a great number of them were male (62.0%). The students who look the Internet course outperformed the ones that did not (the control group) and the difference was statistically significant ($p=0.0422$ / $x2=4.05$).