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Service (sector) Epidemiology N° CEP

WEB-BASED JAVATM APPLICATION FOR COST MANAGEMENT IN AN OPHTHALMOLOGY SETTING

Teixeira SH, Schor P; Chamon, W and the Brazilian Laser and ophthalmology surgery society (BLOSS) PURPOSE: To develop a web based Javatm application for cost evaluation and management of ophthalmological procedures. METHODS: Using traditional methods of cost management we generated an algorithm to evaluate different ophthalmological procedures in relation to: cost of location area, material, equipment, maintenance as well as time spent by the doctors and their collaborators. Based on this algorithm, a software package was built using Javatm programming language. The software was then placed at a personal site, accessible at no charge, to test web compatibility. The program works using three kinds of parameters: imputed by the user (equipment cost and value), parameters defined by the program administrator (as tax rates, cost of general maintenance equipment) and pre-defined parameters which can not be altered by the user. RESULTS: The software can be found in this WWW (World Wide Web) address:

<http://br.geocities.com/mdbreakeven/> DISCUSSION: Ophthalmology is a subspeciality in which technology and equipment play a major role. Equipment is usually expensive and the decision to buy or rent one type or another is usually not based on concrete financial considerations nor on evaluating marketing value. This can be stressful and lead to a negative monetary result especially for the young ophthalmologist. In addition; medical doctors usually have a lack of business expertise We believe that a program with a suitable interface, such as the one presented here, and the flexibility of the internet can be very useful to helping to formulate the decisions made by medical doctors, not only those recently graduated, but also the more experienced ones.