Web-based Learning for Practicing Health Professionals- Does it Work?

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During the Fall of 1998 an information management strategic planning group in the IWK Grace Health Centre identified five key directions for information management in the organization. One of these directions outlined the use of innovative learning technology to support learning for health centre staff, patients and families and partners. In response to this direction a working group conducted a pilot study in which a learning opportunity was offered to multidisciplinary health professionals using a web-based learning environment. The learning opportunity was a certification program which had been traditionally offered using a paper-based self-learning package. Two groups participated in the study, one group had previously completed the paper-based version, the second group was experiencing the content for the first time. This presentation will include a description of the pilot study and demonstrate the key features of the web-based learning environment. Results of the pilot study will also be presented with suggestions for future web-based learning applications in a health care environment.