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Listening to the patients
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Cardiac diseases is the leading cause of deaths worldwide [1]. Cardiac rehabilitation requires patients to make both short- and long-term lifestyle changes. [2]. One solution for giving patients a better opportunity to change behavior may be personalized rehabilitation programs that use interactive telerehabilitation or eHealth web portals that can facilitate patient education. Several studies indicate that eHealth systems to be successfully implemented, the end-users' needs and concerns need to be taken into consideration. [3,4,5]. In our view, the chances of operational success are greater by employing a patient-centered and participatory design (PD) in the design and development process. [3,4,5]

**AIM**

The aim of this study was to evaluate the design and usability of a cardiac telerehabilitation web portal called the “HeartPortal”.

**METHODS**

**Phase I: Development of ideas**

**Aim:** Needs assessment and idea generation

Method: 8 workshops with heart failure patients, relatives, heath care professionals, health technology companies, and researchers

Time: November 2015 to June 2016

**Phase II: Evaluation of design and structure**

**Aim:** To evaluate the structure and user-friendliness of the “HeartPortal”.

Method: Questionnaire survey and tasks assignments on: Use of technology; Experience of user-friendliness; Structure of the HeartPortal. Time: December 2016

**Phase III: Testing usability**

**Aim:** To test the usability of the interactive information site and the health monitoring and activity-tracking module of the HeartPortal

Method: Questionnaires comparable to phase II with additional questions regarding data presentation and interpretation of graphical illustrations. Time: February 2017

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon a PD process, an interactive HeartPortal for the use in a telerehabilitation program for HF patients has been designed and developed. Evaluation of the portal by patients and HCP shows the design and structure of the HeartPortal to be logical and easy to navigate. The study shows the absolute importance of PD in developing web-based technologies for patient users.

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