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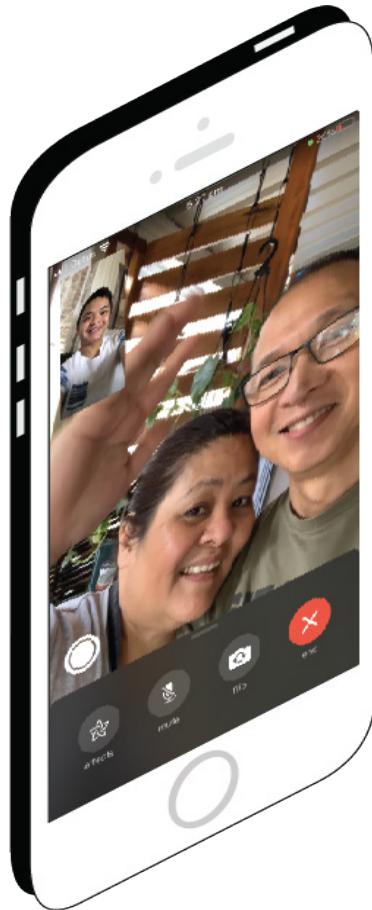
iSave Lives.

How has FaceTime changed the medical world? Does it have the power to save lives?



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With home isolation, and social distancing becoming the new norms of society today, we begin to see an increase of online presence, to maintain economic sustainability. This has become evident within the medical field, where video calls are essential for consultation of patients. This is what is called, '**Telehealth**'. FaceTime, Apples inbuilt video call software, allows for face to face, real-time communication, wherever you are in the world, between Apple devices. This makes for at home consultations accessible to anyone who may need it.

FaceTime works over Wi-Fi, which provides an advantage over regular phone calls, as it allows for free internet-based calls, whenever you have a Wi-Fi connection. It also runs on cellular networks, so it is capable of being used outside of the house, through the use of a device's mobile data plan. This provides accessibility and convenience to those patients who may be unable to travel far distances, and would prefer to have their consultations within their homes.

Apple's continuous development and innovation of FaceTime, from when they released it in 2010 till today, many new features have been added to further improve the user experience. These functions further enhance how telehealth is used, to further benefit the patients needs. The use of being able to rotate to both the front and rear end camera, enables practitioners to view both the patient's face as well as their surroundings. This helps patients who may have injuries in places that are unable to be viewed with the front camera, they are able to use the rear end camera, so that practitioners provide an accurate diagnosis.

In a recent scholarly article entitled "FaceTime to reduce behavioral problems in a nursing home resident with Alzheimer's dementia during COVID-19" (2020), research has shown benefits of FaceTime, helping the elderly, to cope with the current situation of home isolation. Unable to have any family visit, can cause detrimental mental issues, especially to those patients who may already suffer from mental problems.

Medical staff suggested FaceTime, as a way to provide mental stability, allowing patients to see family within the confines of their own home. In the article, the patient's daughter quotes, "FaceTime had provided a sense of connectedness and had positive impact on his symptoms".

Other telehealth video-call software, can lack in convenience as some require to be downloaded, and need a fee to use, and some may require to fill out long forms of information. This removes the spontaneity of a quick video consultation, in case of dire medical attention. Upon research, FaceTime allows for a "one button connection", which reduces the time needed for preplanning, which is usually required for real-time telemedicine consultations. This can greatly benefit doctors who may be out of the country, who are needed to assist in a medical consultation.

In an article found in the US National Library of Medicine' it explains how FaceTime was used on a patient who needed urgent medical attention, needing immediate operation. The surgeon involved, needed to

consult with two other surgical colleagues. Through the accessibility of their iPhones, FaceTime was readily available to gain a real time view of the situation. This allowed them to discuss the best way to approach the surgery, which will best benefit the patient.

FaceTime has grown and evolved from a software that primarily is used for communicating with friends and family, slowly incorporating itself within the business world. Apple's continuous growth and innovation has allowed users to take advantage of this software, and use it for the betterment of society. The technology itself has changed how people communicate globally, enhancing medical practices, at home and internationally. It doesn't only have the power to communicate, but also has the power to save lives.



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FaceTime Functions

