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Estonian Study on Patient Views on Health Digitisation

The Centre for Ethics at the University of Tartu is conducting a study analysing the effects of the digitisation of health data and of patient-doctor communications.

In the last few years, Estonia has gradually digitized much of its healthcare system with health information moving to the Internet. Paper prescriptions have been replaced by digital prescriptions and patient data are collected into a single national information system. This system allows patients to view and monitor their own health data through the Patient Portal. Launched in October 2009, the portal also allows patients to control access to their records, placing restrictions if they wish.

The Centre for Ethics is inviting all those who have visited the Estonian Patient Portal during 2010 to check their health records, to participate in focus group interviews. During these interviews the experiences of both patients and doctors will be analysed. Questions will include: What is your opinion, both in terms of digital opportunities and challenges, on digital prescriptions? On the patient portal?

The study was based on electroencephalogram (EEG) results measured directly at the cortex from eight patients. The scientists found that on average for all patients, a combination of methods yielded an increase in prediction performance by more than 50 percent.

"In our study, about every second seizure could be predicted correctly," Hinnerk Feldwisch-Drentrup from the Bernstein Center said, admitting however that the results from this study alone were not enough for the technique to be applied in real situations.

For further information, please visit:
www.epilepsiae.eu

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