

Is it Easy to Change Attitudes towards E-Health?

A Pilot Experimental Study in First-Year Students

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Research hypothesis

The main **hypothesis** of this study can be expressed in a question:

- Do induced positive/negative expectations/beliefs following a neutral presentation of information have an influence on attitudes regarding e-Health?

Methods

- **90 Greek first-year healthcare students** (mean age = 19.02; SD = .14, mean years of education = 13.00; SD = .00).
- The students were examined in small groups of thirty.
- Attitudes towards e-Health were measured with a **modified 4-point** (1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree) **Likert scale version of the 'efficiency to ICT in care' scale of the Information Technology Attitude Scales for Health (ITASH)** which was based on the scale by Ward et al. (2009).

Results

- **Statistically significant differences were found between the three groups** using a between-within one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) with the two time points (baseline and retest) as the within factor and the three instruction groups as the between factor.
- Although at baseline examination there were no statistically significant differences between the three groups, a statistically significant interaction effect of time*group was found [$F(2, 87) = 43.379, p < .0001$], and the effect size was large (eta squared = .499)

Total scores of attitudes towards e-Health at baseline and at retest

	Group instructions	Mean	SD	N
Baseline total score	Positive	31.46	.97	30
	Control	31.50	1.13	30
	Negative	31.50	.86	30
Total score retest	Positive	31.85	2.75	30
	Control	31.91	3.47	30
	Negative	28.09	3.05	30

Conclusion

- The results of this study show for the first time that **it is very easy to change the opinions of young first-year students, just with verbal positive or negative descriptors following presentation of neutral information.**
- This may be a field for further study as professors of various ranks at universities and/or instructors during intra-curricular and extra-curricular activities could easily change opinions in students who are in their first year of studies.

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