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Rules of engagement: Communicating with adolescent patients through their world of social networking

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Adolescents are known for their need to find their own voice and identity, as well as form pack relationships to enforce their peer acceptance. Both dueling desires are matched in the world of social networking. One can easily post and voice their opinion on matters without resistance, meanwhile receiving almost instantaneous input from peers with likes, responses, etc. This dissociated yet intimate world of social media is what increasing numbers of pre-adolescents and predominate adolescents are growing up with, which inadvertently is shaping their communication skills. After looking at the psychosocial aspects of social media, the different types of social media will be explored, stressing the advantages and disadvantages of each medium in its use for healthcare outreach. Lastly, guidelines will be explored as to what is medically legal and suggest best practices in communicating with adolescents who protect the rights of the adolescent while also maintaining the professionalism of the medical provider.

Biography

Lisa Chan is a Board Certified in Anesthesiology with subspecialty certifications in Pediatric Anesthesiology and Transesophageal Echocardiography. In addition, she is pursuing her Master's Degree in Health Informatics at University of Illinois-Chicago, with an interest in Social Media and Mobile Application in improving healthcare. She was formerly the Director of Clinical Informatics at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. She sits on the social media committee in American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Society of Technology in Anesthesia. In the American Society of Anesthesiology, she is a member of the Committee on Communications and Electronic Media and Information Technology Committee.

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