

TELE-MEDICINE

A WELCOME INNOVATION
IN RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA

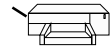
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Telemedicine:

the use of telecommunications
to provide medical information
and services

Facilities For the Centre

- i. a digital camera
- ii. a teleradiographic instrument
- iii. a two-way interactive television (IATV)
- iv. robotics equipment
- v. echographic equipment
- vi. two dedicated computers for the teleconsulting room
- vii. eight computers with VSAT link for research



DVCam: Digital Video Camera; **LTE:** Lab Test Equipment; **MMP:** Multimedia Projector

Anticipated Advantages

- Making specialty care more accessible to underserved rural and urban populations;
- Alleviation of prohibitive travel and associated costs for patients;

Anticipated Advantages

- Opening of new possibilities for continuing professional education and training for health professionals;
- Cutting of costs of medical care for rural dwellers, who cannot afford treatment abroad;

Anticipated Advantages

- Increasing the outrageously low ratio of doctors to patients in Rivers State of Nigeria;
- Giving more proof that Internet is dwarfing the world.

Other Innovations due to the Internet

- Reduction of banks' clearance time
- Air ticketing and hotel reservations
- Easy access to information by researchers
- Better use of idle time by students

Conclusion

- The Internet has freed many Nigerians from "information prison"
- The hope is high that telemedicine shall bring health care to the doorsteps of 70% of Nigerians who reside in the rural areas and are usually starved of medicare

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