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#### **Using medical knowledge sources on handheld computers – A qualitative study among junior doctors**

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**Background:** The emergence of mobile computing could have an impact on how junior doctors learn. To exploit this opportunity it is essential to understand their information seeking process.

**Aim:** To explore junior doctors' experiences of using medical knowledge sources on handheld computers.

**Method:** Interviews with five Swedish junior doctors. A qualitative manifest content analysis of a focus group interview followed by a qualitative latent content analysis of two individual interviews.

**Results:** A focus group interview showed that users were satisfied with access to handheld medical knowledge sources, but there was concern about contents, reliability and device dependency. Four categories emerged from individual interviews:

- (1) A feeling of uncertainty about using handheld technology in medical care;
- (2) A sense of security that handhelds can provide;
- (3) A need for contents to be personalized;
- (4) A degree of adaptability to make the handheld a versatile information tool. A theme was established to link the four categories together, as expressed in the Conclusion section.

**Conclusion:** Junior doctors' experiences of using medical knowledge sources on handheld computers shed light on the need to decrease uncertainty about clinical decisions during medical internship, and to find ways to influence the level of self-confidence in the junior doctor's process of decision-making.