

Book review.

**O. Ferrer-Roca and M Sosa-Iudicissa: Handbook of Telemedicine.**

IOS Press, Amsterdam, 1998. ISBN: 0926-9630, 149DM

---

Telemedicine which is the electronic transfer and discussion of medical data associated with diagnosis and treatment is one of the modern technologic assessments which will probably cause deep changes in our understanding and handling of medicine. This discipline has now left its childhood and is on the way to occupy numerous different medical disciplines. These include direct patients' care and theoretical fields such as statistical analyses or screening and quality assurance programs. The book is based upon the teaching courses offered by EC programs (CATAI) and tries to cover all aspects of telemedicine, i.e., the history, the technical prepositions and standards, the main applications, aspects of multimedia data presentation, quality assurance, internet, distant training, data security, liability aspects, social aspects, and statistical evaluations. This broad spectrum is offered in specific chapters of broad variance in the quantity and quality of included data. Numerous self-explaining sentences show the difficulty of writing these kinds of books ver clearly: the technical compartments are quite hard to understand for medical trained people, and the medical parts miss a clear-cut demonstration of the diagnostic or therapeutic needs understandable for technicians. Thus, the efforts of the authors have to be acknowledge to start a textbook like this; however, it seems that the time is not yet mature to writing a really substantial textbook on telemedicine.

Klaus Kayser