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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE MEDICAL ENGLISH TEACHING

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Introductions. English teaching in medical universities implies many specific aspects and peculiarities. The content line of teaching techniques of medical English teaching of future doctors consists of the development of communication skills and the formation of foreign language knowledge and skills with their further practical application. Thus, foreign language competence helps communicate and share experience with foreign colleagues. Since the purpose of communication among doctors is language comprehension, the main focus is put on vocabulary component which is rich in terminology and professional lexical units. COVID-19 made distance education the most relevant form of education in universities and at schools. Medical students have been transferred to online study as well. So online teaching has become a very common and actual teaching practice nowadays.

Aim. Taking into account the specific features of medical English, online teaching for medical students reveals both efficient and unproductive aspects. So, the main goal of our article to determine pros and cons of online medical English teaching.

Materials and methods. Review of distance teaching peculiarities and analysis of online English teaching for medical students.

Results and discussion. In most cases online learning and teaching is flexible for both students and teachers having a lot of advantages. It allows both to set their own learning pace, times and schedules. Mobile technologies and high-speed internet provide us with the ability to connect from a number of devices such as mobile phones, computers, desktop computers or tablets. Moreover Internet has made it possible to obtain extraordinary amount of materials devoted to current medical

practices and innovations, teaching approaches and modern methodological problems, scientific articles and trials. It also gives teachers the opportunity to create a customised work schedule that they can work around their private life or a second job. Online education can help medical students save time on more substantial work in professional subjects and more qualitative preparation in a wide range of different subjects taught in medical universities. All these benefits are highly highlighted and appreciated by both students and teachers. But there are also drawbacks of teaching medical English online. If you have been teaching in a traditional classroom environment then you are going to have to adapt your teaching style to the online class environment. Any English lesson in medical university must be adopted to online approach. To be an effective online trainer, you need to put yourself in the shoes of your students and see everything from their perspective. This can sometimes be tough for teachers who haven't considered this shift. Having specific aim based on formation of communication competence of future doctors a teacher has to prepare specific approaches, materials, communicative tasks and the ways of their better online implementation. It is important for a teacher to feel how students understand the material and to adjust the educational process immediately, repeat difficult moments again, and provide additional clarifications on some issues. With online learning, this important connection is lost.

The success in delivering the best possible online education depends on students and the faculty's technologies and internet facilities. The faculty particularly needs to adapt to a new technology that the world is using to deliver online education. However, the lack of internet facility and improper facilitation by the faculty hindered the progress towards achieving good online education. Many students of Bogomolets National Medical University live in suburbs and villages and their Internet often works poorly and network connection is constantly lost making online medical English education inefficient. The priority of medical English teaching in NMU is to form and develop communication skills of medical students but distance learning isn't able to develop such skills on a proper level. In distance learning personal contact of students with each other and with teachers is minimal, and

sometimes it's completely lost. Information is perceived better when people have a direct eye-to-eye contact with the teacher and communication is realized more freely and easily without technical barriers. Thus, it has become a sophisticated task to develop communication skills in medical English by means of online English teaching.

Distance education generally pushes students to be more organized and responsible. When students are at home and there is no working environment, they have to force themselves to sit down to study. Not all students have enough motivation to study. At this time, students lose motivation and desire to learn because self-discipline and responsibility disappears. Having lack of constant control not everyone manages to maintain the desired pace of learning without outside supervision. There is no live competition; students have no opportunity to compare their intermediate medical English knowledge and achievements with other students. It is worth realizing that supervision, control and competition are stimulants for some students. Moreover, constant computer work aggravates our health, we abuse our eyesight and damage backbone and shoulders. The fact that teachers and students spend most of the day at the computer results in frequent headaches. The greatest problem in online education is the harm of gadgets to health.

Conclusions. Distance education including online medical English teaching has certain advantages and disadvantages. Positive aspects in distance medical English study are more apparent and discussed. Experience of online medical English teaching has demonstrated also drawbacks of this form of teaching of medical English. Poor IT skills, lack of Internet facilities, improper facilitation by the faculty are still left the main obstacles in efficient online medical English teaching. Problems of communication skills formation of medical students in distance English teaching are still of great importance and seek effective ways of overcoming. Lack of students motivation and lack of constant control and supervision may as well influence the results and achievements of online medical English education leading to low level of foreign language communication competence of future doctors.