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Will the New Information Technologies (NIT) Change Medicine?

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Young doctors are certainly keen on new technology. Some 83% of them say they use an e-health tool in their practice. Can digital tools lead to a change in practices or will it take a generational renewal in the health professions?

1. Where information supply meets demand

We currently see a convergence between the capacity of information systems and society's demand for data. Artificial Intelligence lies at the convergence point and seems necessary to reconcile them.

2. The exponential, destructive and revolutionizing nature of NIT

Every industrial revolution is exponential and finds its origins in the creative destruction described by Schumpeter. An industrial revolution builds a new world and destroys its predecessor. In terms of new technologies, the world has just embarked on a revolution. The changes will be exponential, making a clean sweep of the world we know today.

3. The impact of new technologies on product development and on real life

Technological breakthroughs are targeting patients better via drugs, permitting faster development, and producing innovations in healthcare. This momentum also involves shifting from treatment-based remuneration to results-based remuneration.

4. The entry of new players into the health field, the formation of a new ecosystem

The introduction of new technologies in the health field is accompanied by the arrival of new players. Healthcare is no longer limited to doctors and pharmacists, but increasingly involves economists, mathematicians, technological players, and others. The arrival of technological players like Google contributes to the development of a new ecosystem. The data developed by these players can greatly help pharmaceutical manufacturers. It is used mainly for research and reinforces patient monitoring and predictive research.

5. Doctors as fellow-builders

If doctors do not understand the possible uses of new technology they can be afraid of it, whereas working together could result in tremendous new uses. It is important to introduce the new technologies into practitioners' educational syllabuses.

6. What France must get past: having abandoned innovation for caution – it is time to return to a culture of experimentation

Whereas France in the 19th century was at the forefront of technological innovation, its 21st century has been marked by caution. It now faces the challenge of retaking the lead in innovation in observing key ethical principles. France and Europe have to have the daring to take action. This daring and this continuous striving to innovate involves accepting errors. Acceptance of failure facilitates risk-taking. These changes are a necessity, they have to happen, because every additional moment of delay robs patients of life or healthy life. To do so, more than anything else public opinion must change; public authorities will follow and will create the governance for experimentation. And all this is possible while retaining respect for the precautionary principle. But caution must be reinterpreted as prudence. While caution can lead to abandoning an experience, prudence means continuing the experience with the necessary means to ensure it creates no danger.