

Abstract

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Malaysian women and the number of cases expend proportionately by year. Since the number of cases has reported proportionately, effort should be doubled to educate women about proper breast self-examination (BSE) in order to promote early detection of breast cancer. Several studies have suggested that BSE is one of the important methods for early detection of breast cancer.

By practicing BSE as monthly basis, it is proven that breast cancer is found by women themselves. This study is the first to use teleconsultations via videoconferencing facilities in teaching BSE to women. Teleconsultations has been tested in different settings with positive outcomes, for instance, in the area of tele dermatology. However, none of this teleconsultation service focuses and design for breast care and usually for after diagnosed purposes. We will explore the barriers of implementing teleconsultations for BSE and apply technology acceptance theory to investigate social factors when user interacting with proposed technology as this research is socio-technical in nature.

We will investigate what factors influence the adoption, acceptance and usage of proposed system by potential users in Malaysia and what is the relative importance of these factors and the relationship between them, how can the proposed theoretical model be used to study these factors in the environment of developing countries and what is the role of social influence (culture and trust) in the acceptance and adoption of technology. Finally, how can these findings are used to benefit the telemedicine sector in regards with teleconsultations in Breast Self-Examination (BSE) practice. Since our research is a cross-disciplinary, a multi-method and approaches is used.

Preliminary study is carried out using interview method on women perspectives, attitudes and awareness towards BSE and BSE via teleconsultation. This preliminary result serves as the reason why we need to incorporate ICT with BSE. User centered design approach (UCSD) will be use during design and implementation phase of web-based screening portal where primary user (women) and secondary user (breast care nurse) are involved. Then, in the final stage, after users are exposing with the technology, we will use survey method to apply technology acceptance theory and then use statistical tests to determine the relations between all identified factors.

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