



## PDA June 2004

Laskin RS, Davis JP. The use of a personal digital assistant in orthopaedic surgical practice. *Clin Orthop* 2004 Apr(421):91-8. [PMID:15123932].

Knee Service, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY 10021, USA.  
laskin@aol.com

**ABSTRACT:** The personal data assistant is a powerful tool enabling data acquisition, analysis, and scheduling. The Palm and Windows Pocket PC Operating Systems are available in various personal data assistants that combine bright screens, ease of use, and compactness. Data that are acquired can be imported into standardized spreadsheets for statistical analysis. Report generation using these data can simplify record keeping, facilitate later research, and decrease secretarial typing time. The use of a forms manager, such as Pendragon Forms, enables rapid creation of personal data assistant forms that interface with numerous computer database programs. We currently use these programs for data acquisition when patients are seen in the office, in the operating room, and when returning for followup.

Schuerenberg BK. PDAs for nothing and your apps for free. *Health Data Manag* 2004 Apr;12(4):56-8, 60. [PMID:15098437].

Anderson P, Jacobs C, Rothbaum BO. Computer-supported cognitive behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders. *J Clin Psychol* 2004 Mar;60(3):253-67. [PMID:14981790].

Department of Psychology, Georgia State University, Atlanta 30303-3082, USA.  
panderson@gsu.edu

**ABSTRACT:** This article reviews the empirical literature pertaining to the use of computer-supported cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders, including palmtop computers, virtual reality exposure therapy, and personal computer software programs. The advantages and disadvantages unique to each type of technology are described. The review concludes with a discussion of ethical issues, barriers to the use of technology by clinicians, and suggestions for a process by which scientists and practitioners can conceptualize how technology can advance our understanding of anxiety and our dissemination of effective treatments.

Brilla R, Wartenberg KE. Introducing new technology: handheld computers and drug databases. A comparison between two residency programs. *J Med Syst* 2004 Feb;28(1):57-61. [PMID:15171068].

Department of Neurology, University of Illinois, 912 South Wood Street, M/C 796, Chicago, Illinois 60612-7330, USA. rbrilla@uic.edu

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**ABSTRACT:** There have been numerous efforts to introduce and increase the use of handheld computers, also called personal digital assistants (PDA), in health care, one of which is the distribution of PDAs to Neurology residents at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The authors examined the success of this intervention by comparing PDA use and user attitudes between residents of the intervention group and residents in another residency program where the use of PDAs is neither encouraged nor discouraged. The authors examined in particular the use of drug databases on the PDA as its currently most popular application in health care. The use of PDAs for purposes not related to health care was widespread among individuals in both programs, but the use of drug databases was significantly more common in the control group, which can be interpreted as a success of the intervention.