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VR, AR and mixed reality: Is it time for virtual dentistry?

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The aim of this presentation is to review the potential of virtuality for enhancing the processes of clinical practice and education in dentistry. First, the presentation focuses on the two leading virtual technologies – augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) – exploring their current uses in oral health. The present discusses the application of virtual reality (VR) technology in clinical dentistry, especially in surgical training, pain management and therapeutic treatment of dental illness. We introduce the common types of VR simulators and their operational principles in aforementioned fields. The clinical effects are also discussed. In almost every study that dealt with VR simulators, researchers have arrived at the same conclusion that both doctors and patients could benefit from this novel technology. Moreover, advantages and disadvantages of the utilization of VR technology in each field were discussed, and the future research directions will be proposed.

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