Does the Design of a Public Access Defibrillator Affect a Person's Confidence to Use One?

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INTRODUCTION

Visual design of public access defibrillators (PADs) should allow for effective use by untrained rescuers. Usability of PADs has been investigated, but there is little research into user interface (UI) design.

Works by Don Norman and others state that:

"Attractive things work better".

OBJECTIVE

Applying Norman's theory to public access defibrillation, the objective of this study was to assess the relationship between aesthetics and confidence of PADs

METHODS

Forty participants were recruited.
Images of 10 PADs were displayed on a LCD monitor.
Participants scored how aesthetically pleasing each PAD was and how confident they would feel using each PAD.

RESULTS

Scores of aesthetically pleasing ranged from 3.7 to 7.3.
Confidence ranged from 3.8 to 7.9.

The relationship between aesthetics and confidence using the device is statistically significant (Figure 1, $r=0.889$, $p<0.001$, 95% CI 0.59, 0.97).

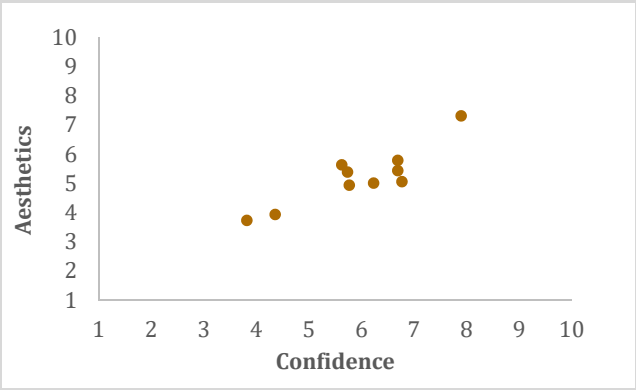

Figure 1: Scatter plot depicting the relationship between mean scores of aesthetics and confidence for each of the 10 PADs

CONCLUSION

The graphic design of a PAD does affect a user's confidence in using the device and more research into the design of these critical devices is warranted.