Title of Article: Automation and Easy Accessibility of Medical Services in Nigeria (ICT and Medicine)
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Abstract: The Internet and Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructures are transforming the future of healthcare management. The cost of healthcare delivery systems, products, and services continue to rise unabated, especially in Nigeria – a developing nation that needs technology transfer. Knowledge is one of the crucial resource and precondition to strengthen health systems. Access to knowledge has large impact on health system management and up to date patient care. The great challenges lie in the optimal utilization of rapid spreading information and communication systems (ICTs) and innovative applications such as telemedicine and e-health. Telemedicine is the practice of diagnosis, consultation and treatment between physicians and distant patients through the use of telephone and computers that transmit data for remote television viewing and treatment from a distance. The concept of telemedicine is a dream to come through in Nigeria, but if developed and taken right to the community hospitals, it can prove to be very beneficial, especially in giving timely treatment to wounded soldiers or plague patients, as a majority of the specialists prefer being stationed at big urban centers, with the rural populace being the real sufferer. Modern health information systems are a requisite for efficient and equitable resource allocation. Moreover, the Internet has pushed networking technology into the mainstream and it is without doubt the most important network, both in terms of technology advances and social impact, in the world. However, telemedicine provides a cost effective means of technological transfer both machine and expatriate advice through ICT connectivity.