

Virtual Mentor

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PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Through the Patient's Eyes: The X Factor

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Intel Corporation chairman Andrew Grove considers how the X Factor - the impact of information technology on business productivity - may affect medicine. In his 1998 piece for *JAMA*, Dr. Grove tells how, following his 1995 diagnosis of prostate cancer, he researched his illness on the Internet and decided the course of treatment he preferred. He foresaw that e-mail could end the telephone tag game between patients and their physicians and that physicians would soon create their own Web sites. "The potential benefits of the X Factor in medicine," Grove declared, are "tremendous for patients as well as for physicians."

Grove AS. The X Factor. [A Piece of My Mind]. *JAMA*. 1998;280(15):1294.

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