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Did I Need One? (D.I.N.O.)

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As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, single-use medical waste has reached all-time high levels. In an attempt to prevent the spread of the pandemic, institutions rallied around the widespread use of PPE with little regard to the resulting environmental impact of this change. As healthcare professionals, we not only have a duty to treat and protect our patients, but also a responsibility to recognize and react to our contributions to climate change.

D.I.N.O. is an art intervention aimed at provoking a conversation around medical waste generated in clinical spaces through visual representation. This project was inspired by the “Gloves Are Off” campaign created by Infection Prevention Control Nurse Helen Dunn and Practice Educators Amy Leonard and Nicola Wilson at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (2019) in the UK. The goal of this campaign is to encourage healthcare professionals to reflect on the unnecessary use of non-sterile gloves and other single-use items to lessen the medical waste burden that healthcare places on society. Within the first year, their campaign saved 21 tonnes of plastic, which Nicola quantified as, “Three and a half Tyrannosaurus Rex’s worth of plastic.”

To continue in the steps of this campaign and with consideration of the increased use of medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope D.I.N.O. will enlighten healthcare professionals and the public on this important topic. We would like to challenge readers to reflect on their establishments and personal application of single-use items.

So, the next time you grab a pair of gloves, ask yourself, “Did I Need One?”







Reference

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. (2019). *The gloves are off*. URL: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/news/gloves-are-off/>

About the Artists

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