**Summary Points S1**

**What was already known**

* Tablet computers are becoming more and more popular for a variety of clinical or clinical related tasks.
* Tablet computers will likely be used by a majority of American physicians in the near future.
* Touchscreen operated mobile devices potentially facilitate the distribution of pathogens.
* Disinfection of these devices with a leaky, non-protected case does not seem to be straightforward.

**What this study has added**

* Tablet computers get severely contaminated with various, partially potentially pathogenic bacteria during usage in a clinical setting.
* Microbial contamination of the tablet computer can be significantly reduced by wrapping the device with a customized single-use plastic bag.
* Wrapping hardly impairs operability or user satisfaction of touchscreen operated devices. 11 % of the patients reported problems with the functionality of the touchscreen. These patients indicated that they had never used a touchscreen operated device (tablet computer, smartphone, etc.) before.
* 81 % of the patients rated the availability of a tablet computer during the waiting period as “very good”.