The role of virtual visits in COVID-19 cardiovascular patients

Martina Di Iorio, Mariachiara Mei, Alessia Bernardini, Michele Magnocavallo, Giampaolo Vetta, Agostino Piro, Marco Valerio Mariani, Giuseppe Giunta, Raffaele Quaglione, Cristina Chimenti, Sara Trivigno, Massimo Mancone, Francesco Fedele, and Carlo Lavalie

Department of Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Nephrology, Anaesthesiology and Geriatric Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
Aims: The outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic forced a reorganization of the healthcare system. In order to prevent potential risk of exposure, virtual visit (VV) has been implemented in the treatment and follow-up of COVID-19 patients with cardiovascular diseases. The aim of this study is to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of VV in the management of post COVID-19 cardiovascular patients.

Methods and results: We enrolled all patients with cardiovascular comorbidities tested negative for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-CoV-2 (SARS-CoV-2) and discharged from our Cardiology Department from January 2021 to June 2021. We scheduled a VV after 30 days from discharge to check the clinical status of the patients, optimize therapy, and establish a Follow-up protocol. Blood pressure, arterial oxygen saturation, heart rate and body weight were registered. To evaluate the patients’ satisfaction of VV, a questionnaire was administered. We performed 25 VVs in the study period; the mean age of patients was 67.5 ± 15.6 and male were 15 (65.2%). The mean duration of VV was 25.9 ± 4.6 min. The caregiver had an active role in nine (36%) cases. No urgent/emergent in-person examinations were performed. A high degree of patient satisfaction was reached and VV was preferred to in-person evaluation.

Conclusions: VV visit was useful to Follow-up post COVID-19 cardiovascular patients. A high degree of patient satisfaction was reached without jeopardizing quality of care.