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TELE-ORAL MEDICINE: AN INNOVATION TO MAINTAIN CARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Larissa Doalla De Almeida E Silva, Maisê Willian Aparecido Gonçalves, Gabriela Fonseca Rocha, João Luiz De Miranda, Cassio Roberto Rocha Dos Santos, and Ana Terezinha Marques Mesquita, Objectives: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all areas, including health. The high and rapid transmission of SARS-CoV-2 caused the need for professionals to innovate to keep in touch with their patients. This study aimed to show the experience of the Tele-Oral Medicine at a referral service in the Jequitinhonha Valley, Brazil, during the COVID-19. Study Design: This study included all queries made by the Tele-Oral Medicine from May 2020 to February 2021. Dentists or patients used a smartphone/computer to contact the stomatologists, via Skype or WhatsApp, by sending messages via chat with clinical data and photos of the oral lesions. Results: A total of 125 patients were attended, and 63 health professionals were assisted through tele-consultations, from 29 cities in the Jequitinhonha Valley. Ninety-five cases required face-to-face consultation (76%), whereas in 24 cases the diagnosis was made virtually (19.2%), avoiding long-distance travel. Forty-two biopsies were performed (33.6%), with potentially malignant oral disorders/squamous cell carcinoma (11 cases, 26.2%), salivary gland pathology (8 cases, 19%), and reactive processes/infectious diseases (7 cases, 16.6%) the most frequent diagnoses. Conclusions: Tele-Oral Medicine allows the screening and diagnosis of oral cancer and should be incorporated in clinical practice to reduce on-site visits.

ORAL ALTERATIONS ASSESSMENT IN PATIENTS AT A HOSPITAL IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

Fabiola Rampanelli Franco Locatelli, Ingrid Da Silva Santos, Fernando Neves Hugo, Eduardo Liberato Da Silva, Arthur Pias Salgueiro, Fernanda Visioli, and Pantelis Varvaki Rados, Objectives: The objective of this study was to evaluate and describe the prevalence of this study was to evaluate and describe the prevalence of the most common causes for oral examination needs during hospitalization or outpatient care. Study Design: This cross-sectional study analyzed the main oral examination needs and procedures in oral medicine performed from January 2018 to July 2020. Results: A total of 470 patients were included in this study, including hospitalized patients (n = 325) and outpatients (n = 145). In both groups, more than 50% of the patients were female and married. The main cause for the medical or interdisciplinary team to request oral mucosa evaluation was dysphagia (64.46%), dry mouth (44.77%), mucositis (27.2%), fungal infection (20.2%), dry lips (11.06%), and traumatic ulcer (10.6%). Other conditions and/or procedures, including tooth extractions, odontogenic infections, and prosthesis adjustments, corresponded to 61.27%. Between-group analysis showed that hospitalized patients were 9.5 times more likely to present these oral mucosa alterations (48.3%). Conclusions: This study provides information on the most frequent oral alterations among outpatients and hospitalized patients. The knowledge of this scenario in different complexities may improve the quality of health care, especially preventive measures. This knowledge may also reduce health care costs with more efficient approaches.