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Impact of telehealth on pharmaceutical management of dermatological conditions

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ABSTRACTS | Clinical Research — Sociobehavioral and Health Services Research

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic caused dermatology providers to use telemedicine to safely arrange clinic appointments during lockdowns. This study aimed to evaluate the impact of telemedicine on the duration of antibiotic prescription length. Specifically, we sought to compare antibiotic length prescription for virtual vs. in-person visits before, during, and after COVID-19 shutdowns. A retrospective cohort study was used employing all documented pharmaceutical prescriptions of tetracycline in 2019-2021 prescribed by dermatology providers at a large academic tertiary referral center. Results show an increase in telemedicine visits from 0.73% (2019) to 18.31% (2020), with a decrease to 3.98% in 2021 (p < 0.0001). Analysis demonstrates that a tetracycline prescription of over 91 days was given in 37.90% vs. 28.83% of visits for virtual vs. in-person visits respectively (p < 0.0001). Interestingly, 52.64% of antibiotic prescriptions written by staff physician dermatologists exceeded 91 days vs. 18.18% for dermatology fellows, 25.74% for resident physicians, and 21.55% for physician-assistants (p < 0.0001). The demonstrated increase in duration of antibiotic prescribing is perhaps indicative of less data available for clinical decision making, longer wait times between provider appointments during this era of lockdowns, and providers desire to make the visit worthwhile. Future studies should explore factors related to provider decision-making in virtual compared to in-person visits. This research is key in laying a foundation for how virtual visits may play a greater role in dermatologic care as we move towards a post-COVID world.

Impact of crisaborole & tacrolimus 0.03% on patient-reported outcomes and caregiver burden in children with atopic dermatitis

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Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the execution of real world, pragmatic trials: The LITE study experience

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With the growing incidence of skin cancer globally, electronic consultations (e-consults) can be a useful tool for dermatologists in the assessment of cutaneous lesions. In this study, we sought to characterize the social and institutional factors affecting completion of initial e-consults as well as in-office follow-ups. Patients with an ICD 10 code of neoplasm with uncertain behavior at The Ohio State University Medical Center that received an e-consult order from May 1, 2017 to May 1, 2021 were queried. Additional information collected included patient demographics, zip code affluent status, in-office follow-up appointments defined as completed or no-contact. These factors were then used to assess differences in the completion of e-consults, and the status of in-office follow-up appointments. A total of 667 patients were found to have received an order for an e-consult, of which 427 (64%) had a completed e-consultation while 240 (36%) did not. Year of encounter (p < 0.0001) and number of completed visits (p < 0.0004) were found to be significantly associated with completion of initial e-consult and remained significant in the multivariate model. For in-office follow-up appointments, 429 patients presented for an in-office appointment, while 82 had no contact. The status of follow-up appointments was significantly associated with patient’s race (p < 0.0001), gender (p = 0.0028), and referral status (p = 0.018). In the post-pandemic timeframe, 12 academic and 2 private sites were newly activated, and 5 private practices were withdrawn. Commonly reported barriers included institutional holds, staffing shortages, worsening patient financial situations, reduced capacity for patient visits and office photocopying, uncertainty, anxiety, or self-isolation. These factors tended to make patients feel more about their skin. Conclusion: Many consumers are affected both physically and emotionally by age-related skin changes. The pandemic has played an important role in how consumers feel about their skin.

Factors affecting electronic dermatology consultations for patients with uncertain cutaneous neoplasms

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Factors affecting electronic dermatology consultations for patients with uncertain cutaneous neoplasms can be a useful tool for dermatologists in the assessment of cutaneous lesions. In this study, we sought to characterize the social and institutional factors affecting completion of initial e-consults as well as in-office follow-ups. Patients with an ICD 10 code of neoplasm with uncertain behavior at The Ohio State University Medical Center that received an e-consult order from May 1, 2017 to May 2021 were queried. Additional information collected included patient demographics, zip code affluent status, in-office follow-up appointments defined as completed or no-contact. These factors were then used to assess differences in the completion of e-consults, and the status of in-office follow-up appointments. A total of 667 patients were found to have received an order for an e-consult, of which 427 (64%) had a completed e-consultation while 240 (36%) did not. Year of encounter (p < 0.0001) and number of completed visits (p < 0.0004) were found to be significantly associated with completion of initial e-consult and remained significant in the multivariate model. For in-office follow-up appointments, 429 patients presented for an in-office appointment, while 82 had no contact. The status of follow-up appointments was significantly associated with patient’s race (p < 0.0001), gender (p = 0.0028), and referral status (p = 0.018). In the post-pandemic timeframe, 12 academic and 2 private sites were newly activated, and 5 private practices were withdrawn. Commonly reported barriers included institutional holds, staffing shortages, worsening patient financial situations, reduced capacity for patient visits and office photocopying, uncertainty, anxiety, or self-isolation. These factors tended to make patients feel more about their skin. Conclusion: Many consumers are affected both physically and emotionally by age-related skin changes. The pandemic has played an important role in how consumers feel about their skin.