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VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LED TO EQUIVALENT PATIENT SATISFACTION FOR REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY (REI) PATIENTS

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate whether a shift to virtual care during the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted patient satisfaction among REI patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: A modified version of a validated multiple-choice survey assessing satisfaction with care was sent to current patients who agreed to participate in research at a tertiary medical center. The survey evaluated satisfaction with multiple aspects of care. Respondents were categorized by visit type: in-person only (n = 23), virtual-only (n = 12), and a mix of both settings (n = 52). Responses were dichotomized into “Agree” or “Disagree”, with neutral grouped with “agree”. Chi-squared tests of independence to assess differences between groups were conducted in R (Version 3.4.4). P < 0.05 was interpreted as statistically significant. The study was approved by the University of California San Francisco Institutional Review Board.

RESULTS: Out of 1282 patients who received an invitation to participate, 526 patients (41.0%) completed our survey. Eighty-seven of these were seen by the Division of REI and included in this study. Median participant age was 36.5 (range: 21-76). There were no significant differences in respondents’ satisfaction with the virtual care versus in-person vs. virtual mixed visit type: in-person only (n = 23), virtual-only (n = 12), and a mix of both settings (n = 52). Responses were dichotomized into “Agree” or “Disagree”, with neutral grouped with “agree”. Chi-squared tests of independence to assess differences between groups were conducted in R (Version 3.4.4). P < 0.05 was interpreted as statistically significant.

Conclusions: SARS-CoV-2 infection does not affect semen parameters nor hormonal profile for previously fertile patients on short & long term basis. Testosterone levels in symptomatic hospitalized patients is significantly decreased compared to asymptomatic non-hospitalized group at the time of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

IMPACT STATEMENT: Long term reproductive health of men is not affected by SARS-CoV-2 infection.