



TELEDERMATOLOGY

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECNOLOGIES' USE IN SKIN HEALTH: A MULTICENTER STUDY

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Introduction: Advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs) in recent years have revolutionized how physicians and patients approach medical care. Such technologies have shown a great potential in delivering well-supported information to patients. In the dermatology field, there is a need to know how our patients are being altered by the use of these technologies.

Objective: To describe the sociodemographic characteristics, perception patterns and current use of ICTs among Colombian dermatological patients.

Design: Cross -sectional descriptive study

Materials and methods: This multicenter study included patients with skin disease from different Colombian cities. Individuals older than 7 years, of any gender and with any skin disease who sought a dermatologist, and who have signed an informed consent, were included.

Results: Preliminary data from 125 patients, (73 women and 52 men) with age between 17-84 years-old (Mean 42 years-old), were collected. The majority of patients (70%) belonged to low income strata and had initiated therapy at screening (78%).





Dermatologist-appointment travel time of a high number of patients ranged from 21-120 minutes. Eighty-percent of patients owned a mobile phone, and around 70% of patients usually access the internet either from home, or at work. The majority of patients (86%) spent at least 1 hour on the internet looking for dermatology-related issues.

Conclusions: Information and communication technologies are frequently used by dermatological patients without gender or age distinction. Therefore, such means of communication could be used to deliver well-supported dermatological-care information

