



TELEDERMATOLOGY

# INTERPRETATION AND FOLLOW UP OF PATCH TESTING IN ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS BY PATIENT ASSISTED TELEDERMATOLOGY PRACTICE-A SURVEY AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Malavika Madhusoodhanan<sup>(1)</sup>

Jss Medical College, Dermatology, Mysuru, India<sup>(1)</sup>

**INTRODUCTION:** Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) is common in dermatology clinics. Patch test interpretation demands multiple visits. Patient assisted teledermatology practice (PATP) involves capture, transfer of images and interaction with the dermatologist by the patient. The role of PATP to interpret patch test and deliver follow-up care in ACD is not well established.

**OBJECTIVE:** To assess the acceptability and feasibility of PATP to interpret patch test in ACD.

**MATERIALS & METHODS:** ACD cases were divided into PATP or face to face (FF) based on survey (20 questionnaire model) after informed consent. In PATP, serial images were received by messenger apps for follow-up. Active ACD lesions were periodically assessed by EOL score (erythema (0-3), oozing (0-3) and lichenification (0-3)). Patch test was interpreted by ICDRG criteria at 48 hr, 96 hr and day 7. In FF, follow-up was performed in outpatient department. Quality of images received were graded as 1 – poor, 2 – fair, 3 – good and 4 – excellent. Patient (Likert's scale 0-4) and physician (image quality) satisfaction were analysed.

**RESULTS:** A total of 194 cases participated. Direct enrolment for patch test (no active lesions of ACD)-169, treated for ACD however, did not undergo patch test-25. treated for ACD & underwent patch test-4. Independent sample t test revealed patient (0.068) and physician (0.115) satisfaction with 50% reduction in cost (0.683), time (0.710), distance (0.994) and sick leave (0.573) Quality of images received was significant (0.115 by t test). Patch test readings at 48 hrs (0.839), 96 hrs (0.872), Day 7(0.000) and common ICDRG grade 1+(0.336 in 78.7%) by Cramer's V test.

**CONCLUSION:** In PATP, there was 50 % reduction in follow up visits, cost, time, distance travelled and sick leave. PATP using messenger apps is feasible and acceptable for patch test interpretation.

