



TELEDERMATOLOGY

TELEDERMATOLOGY FROM THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL

A Santosa⁽¹⁾ - Ns Chandran⁽²⁾

Mohh, National University Hospital Singapore, Singapore, Singapore⁽¹⁾ - Nuhs, National University Hospital Singapore, Singapore, Singapore⁽²⁾

Introduction: Teledermatology revolutionises the delivery of dermatologic services to patients by increasing accessibility. Many dermatological conditions that present to emergency medicine physicians can be managed in the outpatient setting; however, lack of specialist dermatological expertise may lead to unnecessary inpatient admission. We performed an audit on the teledermatology services between the dermatology and emergency department in a tertiary hospital in Singapore since its conception in May 2015.

Objective: To evaluate the effect of teledermatology on improvement of the number of inappropriate admissions to General Medicine primarily for a dermatological condition, and to analyse the spectrum of conditions.

Materials and Methods: Retrospective case analysis was performed on all teledermatology referrals between June 2015 and June 2018.

Results: Between June 2015 and June 2018, a total of 87 patients were referred from the emergency department to dermatology via teledermatology. Nine (10.3%) patients required admission; seven (8.0%) were admitted while two (2.3%) declined admission. The two most frequent indications for admission was infective dermatological conditions requiring antibiotic administration and complications of psoriasis. The remaining 78 patients were managed as outpatients: 41 were offered clinic review within a week, 29 were offered clinic review between eight days to a month, 3 did not require further follow up, and 5 were admitted for a non-dermatological condition. From 75 patients who were given clinic appointments, 15 did not attend the clinic.

Conclusions: The offering of teledermatology allows patients to be largely managed in the outpatient setting. Teledermatology service also allows better triaging of urgency of outpatient review for the various dermatological conditions.

