



TELEDERMATOLOGY

TELEDERMATOLOGY PRACTICE IN NIGERIA (WWW.MYDERMATOLOGYCONSULT.COM.NG): A REVIEW OF OUR EXPERIENCE

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Background: The provision of teledermatology services will greatly improve access to skin care in Nigeria where there are few dermatologists. There is no established model for the practice of teledermatology in Nigeria. We established a teledermatology service (www.mydermatologyconsult.com.ng) two years ago to mitigate this problem.

Objective: Our aim was to determine the use of the teledermatology site by patients in the first two years.

Materials and Methods: This was a retrospective study of the activities on the website from February 2016 to January 2018. The website was operated as a store and forward model of teledermatology. The administrative end of the website was accessed and data from the patients were retrieved and analyzed.

Results: 683 persons visited the site during the period. 9 persons signed up and submitted their clinical history and photographs for review by the dermatologist. 7 out of the 9 were females while 2 were males. The median age of the patients was 23 years. All the patients complained of itching while 7 complained of rashes. Only 3 persons paid the consultation fee of ₦5000 (about \$14). Among those that registered, 2 persons were diagnosed of Urticaria while one person was diagnosed of atopic dermatitis.

Conclusions: There was high interest in accessing a teledermatology site among Nigerians. However, few persons were willing to sign-up and pay the registration fee. There is a need for a survey to determine the reasons for the low number of registered patients.

