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Tele-dermatology in primary health care rural of Posadas (Córdoba)

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Background & Aim: The importance of early diagnosis of pigmented lesions, especially melanoma, make the doubts raised by the diagnosis the family doctor must be resolved by a dermatologist. Teledermatology can be defined as the clinical evaluation of skin lesions by dermatologists using telemedicine techniques, allowing diagnosis and possibly treatment of patients remotely.

We present this work aims to:

1. Provide service teledermatology a rural health center in Andalusia
2. Facilitate remote consultation for patients with difficult access to the dermatologist.
3. Improve the screening of tumor lesions.

Method: It developed a descriptive cross-section study of prevalence. We used an Android Smartphone device with 13 megapixel camera to take pictures, sending the images through Gmail service to a dermatologist with an informed consent signed by patient. It is also attach a Word document with clinical data of patient and lesion characteristics.

Results: Of the 110 patients studied, 35 (31.82%) were men and 82 (68.18%) are women. The overall average age is 50.76 years. A total of 88 cases (80%) did not require referral to dermatology. 15 patients required dermatological tracking for the following diagnoses: 4 Basal Cell Carcinoma, 4 Actinic keratosis, 1 Bowen's disease, 2 atypical nevus, 1 pigmentosum nevus, 1 acral nevus, 1 infiltrated inflammatory plaque and 1 common wart. A total of 2 patients needed referral to surgery. Five cases had to repeat photography.

Conclusions: Due to the high demand for assistance with consequent waiting lists, technological innovations have enabled the creation of units teledermatology between primary care physicians and dermatologists, to improve the quality of screening of pigmented lesions.