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Resolution of pigmented lesions of the skin by teledermatology in primary care

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Background & Aim: To evaluate the use of teledermatology in pigmented skin lesions in primary care.

Methods: A descriptive study was done on a sample of 200 patients diagnosed by teledermatology deferred. The photographs of pigmented lesions of the skin were emailed to specialist in dermatology, who confirms the diagnosis and need for referral and / or most appropriate treatment. The measured variables were age, sex, primary care clinical judgment, response time dermatologist, diagnostic by dermatologist, concordance, treatment, the total time to skin problem resolution . Descriptive statistics and SPSS for medium frequencies and kappa for concordance.

Results: Patients mean age: 57 years (+/- 22), 61% female, the average waiting time in obtaining dermatological response 1.3 (+/- 1.8) days. The diagnoses most frequently encountered is that of nevi in 23.7% of patients, basal 21.1%, seborrheic keratoses and squamous 16.5% 14.5% 2.1% melanoma. Given diagnoses matching has obtained a kappa index of 0.7. It was specified referral dermatology at 55.7% of patients. Surgical treatment 33%. The average for the resolution of the total time were about 61 (+/- 80) days.

Conclusion: Using teledermatology in primary care is a very useful tool for quickly diagnosing borderline or malignant pigmented lesions, serving to reduce unnecessary referrals to dermatologist.