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Conference Abstract

6 years TeleDermatology in The Netherlands: results of 80.000 teleconsultations

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Abstract

Teledermatology, the application of telemedicine in the field of dermatology has similar accuracy and reliability as physical dermatology. Teledermatology has been widely used in daily practice in The Netherlands since 2005 and is fully reimbursed.

This study prospectively investigated the effect of teledermatology on efficiency, quality and costs of care when integrated in daily practice and applied following patient selection by the general practitioner.

In daily general practitioner practice in The Netherlands teledermatology consultations between general practitioner and regional dermatologist were performed. Efficiency of care was measured by the decrease in the number of physical referrals to the dermatologist. Quality of care was measured by the percentage of teleconsultations for second opinion, physical referrals resulting from these teleconsultations, the response time of the dermatologists and learning effect experienced by the general practitioner. Costs of conventional healthcare without teledermatology were compared to costs with teledermatology.

Keywords:

teledermatology, implementation, business model, efficiency outcomes

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