



TELEDERMATOLOGY

PERCEPTIONS ON TELEDERMATOLOGY AMONG PATIENTS ATTENDING IN A PRIVATE SKIN CARE CLINIC IN BANGLADESH: A CROSS SECTIONAL INTERVIEW

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Introduction: Teledermatology is turning out to be an accepted and widespread means of providing skin healthcare facility throughout the world. But before adopting an acceptable and feasible teledermatology program, perceptions, attitudes and experiences of key stakeholders are needed to be explored.

Objective: The aim of this study is to understand the perceptions on teledermatology among a group of patients attending in a private skin care clinic and gather information for researching, designing and implementing such a program.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional survey was performed with 88 participants, aged between 18-60 years, attended in a private skin clinic in Bangladesh from February 2017 to July 2017. Participants selected through simple random sampling were interviewed separately using a structured set of questionnaires after taking their verbal consent. Findings were analyzed to comprehend their perception on teledermatology.

Results: Total 88 patients including 43 male 45 female were recruited in the study. 88.64% of them previously experienced with different barriers to access face to face skin care consultations. Among all, 72 had used the internet. 77.27% preferred mobile based internet connectivity. Though 90.91% knew about online healthcare, but only 10.23% had ever participated in any online program. 84.09% of them were interested to use teledermatology platform at least for primary intervention. Store and Forward (SAF) technology (59.09%) seemed more preferable than Real-Time consultation (RTC). Regarding communication ability for online care, 45 (51.13%) believed that they would be able to participate by themselves and the rest were not sure. 75% showed interest to perform diagnostic test, follow up and hospital referral, if needed.

Conclusions: Despite some limitations, the study demonstrated perceptions of a group of patients attended in a private skin clinic, reflecting their knowledge and attitudes on teledermatology. Those findings would be helpful for researching, designing and implementing future teledermatology programs in Bangladesh.

