PATIENTS PERCEPTION AND ACCEPTANCE TOWARDS TELE NEPHROLOGY

[1]Ria Gulgulia
[1]Student, IIHMR University

[2]Dr. Anoop Khanna
[2]Professor, IIHMR University

DOI: https://doi.org/10.52458/9788197040849.2024.eb.ch-15
Ch.Id:- IIHMR/GRF/EB/THMPG/2024/Ch-15

INTRODUCTION

Telemedicine has emerged as a transformative healthcare alternative by providing remote access to medical services and bridging the gap between patients and healthcare professionals. In recent years, it has proven to be particularly promising in the field of nephrology and dialysis, showcasing significant potential compared to other areas where telemedicine has demonstrated effectiveness. The integration of telemedicine into nephrology practices holds the promise of revolutionizing dialysis services, especially considering the global increase in kidney disease prevalence and the growing demand for renal care [1,2].

By leveraging information and communication technology, telemedicine empowers healthcare providers to diagnose and treat patients' conditions, contributing to overall health improvement. Initially designed to enhance healthcare access for remote populations, telemedicine has evolved beyond its initial scope as technology progressed and societal perspectives shifted. The adoption of telemedicine technology has minimized reliance on physical medical institutions, allowing for more efficient and effective care delivery within the comfort of patients' homes. Crucially, geographically dispersed patients can now access specialized medical care through telemedicine, which involves the delivery of medical services or information over electronic networks. Additionally, telemedicine platforms have become more prevalent, offering affordable, high-quality care to a broader audience [3].

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To investigate patients' attitudes and preparedness regarding tele-nephrology.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a cross-sectional study design and was conducted at DCDC Kidney Care. A sample size of 500 patients was targeted, and primary data were collected through an online questionnaire utilizing a stratified sampling method. A total of 450

responses were received, with 250 responses being fully filled in and considered for analysis. Secondary data were primarily gathered from sources such as PubMed, official websites, published articles, and Google Scholar. The analysis and interpretation of the collected data were carried out using statistical tools like SPSS and MS Excel, accompanied by graphical representations.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

It was discovered that adults in India were well-informed about tele-nephrology and the potential challenges related to utilizing video consultations with nephrologists. The primary barriers to this practice were identified as a lack of access to technology and economic constraints. In contrast, patients in New York and Columbia experienced successful tele-nephrology services. Developed nations, including most parts of the United States, now include telehealth videoconferencing in their reimbursement claims, alleviating the financial burden associated with medical consultations. The global adoption of video-based telemedicine for routine kidney care is on the rise, and patients with various kidney diseases worldwide are embracing this approach. In India, patients undergoing peritoneal dialysis have previously derived benefits from effective tele-nephrology services. Remote monitoring of patients on automated peritoneal dialysis has led to increased adherence, early detection of catheter issues, reduced clinical visit frequency, and enhanced patient-provider communication, resulting in a significant reduction in hospitalization rates.

CONCLUSION

Telemedicine serves as a valuable platform for individuals undergoing irregular hemodialysis, a situation that prompts various clinical indicators leading to ineffective health management. Patients often deviate from their dialysis schedules due to factors like irresponsible health behavior, financial burdens, or, in some unfortunate cases, the patient may have passed away before the scheduled dialysis session. For those individuals encountering challenges in accessing traditional in-person care, such as transportation issues or scheduling conflicts, telehealth technology proves to be a highly effective

alternative.

REFERENCES

1. Koraishy, F. M., & Rohatgi, R. (2020). Telenephrology: an emerging platform for delivering renal health care. American Journal of Kidney Diseases, 76(3), 417-426.
2. Lambooy, S., Krishnasamy, R., Pollock, A., Hilder, G., & Gray, N. A. (2021). Telemedicine for outpatient care of kidney transplant and CKD patients. Kidney international reports, 6(5), 1265-1272.
3. Lew, Susie Q.1; Sikka, Neal2. Telehealth and Kidney Disease Care: Role after the Public Health Emergency? CJASN 16(12): p 1784-1786, December 2021. | DOI: 10.2215/CJN.13651021