The Implementation of a Patient-Assisted Mobile Teledermatology Program in Saudi Arabia: Dermatologists' Perspective

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Abstract:
Teledermatology, which is the use of technology for an expanded access to patient data in order to achieve patient care over distance, has been subjected to extensive research in the current decade. Literature has reported many advantages of using teledermatology, including reduced waiting time and costs on patients. Smartphones have been increasingly accessible and affordable for the majority of patients and doctors; thus, this brought up what is called Patient-Assisted Mobile Teledermatology.This is a cross-sectional survey-based study that is conducted in both governmental and private hospitals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This study addresses dermatologists' perspective about the implementation of a Patient-Assisted Mobile Teledermatology program in Saudi Arabia. In addition to evaluating advantages and disadvantages for implementing a Patient-Assisted Mobile Teledermatology program in Saudi Arabia. Preliminary results after interviewing 20 dermatologists showed that 60% of them are aware about the concept of teledermatology. 25% are willing to use teledermatology services if offered in the future. However, 70% of the dermatologists reported that they will not use Teledermatology for establishing primary diagnoses and prefer to keep it for follow up of previously diagnosed diseases.Teledermatology is an evolving field, which if invested and used appropriately, will certainly drastically amend the care provided to patients by providing an ongoing mean of contact between the physician and the patient and by saving time for physicians and hence providing more time for new consultation.

Biography:

Rima Aboukheir completed her dermatology residency training in University of Aleppo (1990) and has been practicing in Saudi Arabia since 1994. She is currently working in Kingdom Hospital, one of the leading hospital in Saudi Arabia.

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