

Teledentistry-A Boon amidst COVID-19 Era



Tele-dentistry refers to the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry. Cook coined the word "tele-dentistry" in 1997, defining it as "the method of using video-conferencing technology to diagnose and provide treatment advice over a distance. Tele-health refers to a broad variety of technologies and tactics to deliver virtual medical, health, and education services. It is not a specific service, but a collection of means to enhance care and education delivery. Teleconsultation, telediagnosis, tele triage, and telemonitoring are subunits of tele dentistry. It has worked as a boon for both patients & dentist during the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing the patient's anxiety and uncertainty during this difficult time via teleconsultation for one who was already undergoing treatment and/ or to consult emergency dental problems[1]. This pandemic has brought many changes in our day-to-day life, but with the advent of newer technology and internet facilities, online consultation from Dentist for troubleshooting has become ease.

Increased use of smartphone and related software applications has created a new era in clinical data exchange among patients and clinicians. Therefore, it is a fusion of telecommunications and dentistry that entails sending clinical data and ideas over far distances for dental remote monitoring with the help of Emails, MMS, WhatsApp, phone calls, zoom meeting, and google meet like applications[2]. The idea of tele dentistry has been supported by many orthodontists and general dentists in providing dental consultation more available to dentists and patients especially during this period of Covid19 pandemic where, dentistry is at the highest risk because of droplet infection.

Teledentistry has the ability to improve access and delivery and lower the cost of oral healthcare eliminating disparities between the rural and urban communities. It helps people to receive specialized healthcare measures in remote parts of the world due to advancements in the field of telecommunication[3]. Lienert et al. found that telemedical services were helpful for dental trauma cases in a Swiss telemedical center and provided valuable support in the absence of a specialty dentist. Tele dentistry can offer a novel solution to resume dental practice during the current

pandemic, hence, the need of the hour is to incorporate tele dentistry into routine dental practice. If not fully replace, at least tele dentistry can complement the existing compromised dental system during the current pandemic[4].

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