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Virtual clinics in ENT

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Virtual clinics are established in some specialties to provide a more convenient service to patients and improve efficiencies and cost in providing care for patients. In ENT these clinics are becoming more popular to cope with ever increasing demand on the specialty. We conducted a survey of all the ENT departments in the UK to identify whether virtual clinics are being used and how they are being used-telephone or video calls. We also looked at the type of pathologies that were being reviewed in the clinics. We found that there was considerable variation regarding the use of virtual clinics. The biggest use of virtual clinics was to explain test results, especially regarding imaging for sensorineural hearing loss. We conclude that virtual clinics are a growing method of providing healthcare to patients that is convenient and cost-effective. There is scope for this to be used in many more departments in ENT.

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