Online Radio Pathologic Correlation

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Keywords: Biopsies; Interventionist radiology; Telemedicine; Histopathological review

Introduction

Colombia is a country with limitation of basic and more complex health services, especially those specialized in diagnostic imaging and interventional procedures performed with medical imaging guidance [1]. The department of Antioquia has an adverse topography that makes transportation to the city of Medellin complicated [2].

Appointments with medical specialists [3,4] have multiple delays, the medical professionals are located in the capital city and patients from rural areas must travel long distances in order to access specialized services for biopsies. After the diagnostic procedure is performed, the histopathological review at the control visit is fundamental for a clinical radiopathological correlation [5], which is consistent with the clinical evolution, the imaging appearance and the result pathological, for which the specialist interventionist must review all the pathologies of the patients involved.

A control visit represents costs and delays for the patient since many of them due to their socio-economic conditions, do not have the possibility for returning to the city easily. For these patients, a Web page with Web Interest in Health (WIS) certification [6] has been developed where they can register and send their results for the radiopathological correlation. These patients understand and accept this type of review in order to avoid losing this benefit and send their diagnostic images for review by the specialist interventional radiologist.

The results of the implementation of this program are presented. More than 150 pathologies have been reviewed and all the patients have been adequately addressed with the improvement in the quality of the provision of biopsy taking services, empowering the patient, taking responsibility for their care and empowering it with the use of internet technology in their favor in a country with serious limitations of attention by medical specialists.

Abstract

We present a 2 years the experience using a web portal to review the results of histological analysis and pathologies of biopsies taken by the interventionist radiology service of Medellin Clinic and North Clinics in the city of Medellin, of patients that cannot access the review physically like outpatient, therefore with the privacy standards can send the histopathological result via internet and the results are reviewed by one of the professionals who send recommendations for each patient adhering to the privacy and confidentiality standards of the Clinical Record favoring thus the ICT (information and communication technologies). MESH Telemedicine Radiology Continuity of Patient Care Histology-www.mediart.co.

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Justification

Due to geographic or economical limitations or disability, patients cannot easily attend control visits after interventional procedures for pathology review. Thus they have requested a different form of accessing the interventional radiology service for radiopathological correlation.

This service is free and is included in the “should be” of the provision of interventional radiology, so that before information was provided through personal mail or even by voice or messages on the personal mobil of the interventional doctor. With the increase in demand and with the perception of doing it in a more professional way, on the personal page a message box application was created in which patients register with their personal email, they accept terms and conditions of treatment under de General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of their data and asynchronously they send the information for the complementary evaluation to the biopsy taking, which is the final analysis in which the clinical presentation, the radiological image and the pathological analysis are integrated with the intention of providing a personalized service.

Materials and Methodology

For the last six years, in the service of interventional radiology. The day of the biopsy, the possibilities for reviewing the pathology result are explained; either face to face consultation during a new appointment or by means of an asynchronous telemedicine consultation through a certified application on a web page in accord with the Colombian regulations for teledermatology. For the Tele-Revision or Tele-Review, only patients who want this form that best suits their needs.

The information of the page and the application is extended and the informed consent is signed for this type of assessment, in addition to the acceptance of terms that make the digital form when accessing the page using verification in a personal email.

Subsequently, the portal sends the verification codes and messages through a mailbox, so that the doctor can answer the patients'
questions and order behaviors (Figures 1, 2a and 2b) such as repetition in the case of an inconclusive biopsy, follow-up in case of benign or interconsultation by interdisciplinary group in case of malignant result. A simple easy to understand language is used and all patients doubts are solved and clarified.

Results

It has been performed more than 3,000 procedures and these have been performed asynchronously radiopathological correlation through the portal of 190 patients (Figure 3), with a percentage of 80% a single interaction and 20% for more than an interaction in relation to orders of examinations and follow-up of recommendations.

There have been offered and performed 5 interventional treatments [7] of benign lesions that in the country in general are not performed due to low availability of the percutaneous sclerosis service of benign thyroid cysts.

Discussion: eHealth and TeleMedicine

It is important to clarify the terms where eHealth is any type of approach related to health from the digital universe, while TeleMedicine refers to a more personalized interaction dedicated to providing a service [8].

Advances in medical technology are imposed in all aspects, as we have reviewed in the references, eHealth and TeleMedicine are not new, but with the advance in the digitalization of data, networks, communications technologies and the information every time they are taking more importance in the electronic everyday life and in this way the technological services will invariably migrate to these virtual digital scenarios overcoming the geographical and temporal barriers.

Regarding the evidence, it is a very robust issue to define the type of eHealth interaction, if it is through specific programs and platforms, if it is only used to solve doubts or if telemetry devices are used to make the interaction more physical, if cameras, camera type, type of light, data network, service availability, synchronous or asynchronous, if they are eHealth activities for the general public or involve specialized consultation including remote intervention with robots and technological developments that facilitate the TelePresence, of service at home or in reference center [9] of this medical literature is full of data and it becomes a huge task to group it, something that epidemiologists know very well with all their statistical machinery, in this way the epidemiological evidence [10] that supports the use of technology, should be assessed for each particular case, from the review of the evidence we see how the benefits of Telemedicine are shown in chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, dermatology, radiology including mobile teleradiology [11] for second opinion, opthalmology rehabilitation and psychiatry, with limitations to demonstrate impacts on survival, for example, not so clear in other aspects such as Tele ICU (Intensive care unit) and neonatal care, even suggesting an increase in costs and unnecessary interventions in the latter population [12].

Promising is the scenario of current human realities and virtualities where every time information and data represent a high percentage of the lives of people in general and of patients specifically, we also see unintended effects such as the cost overrun in patient involved in
telemmedicine projects, in addition to a higher hospitalization rate, such as in asthma, or even the technical difficulties of the devices involved, with performance in the rehabilitation area that have shown benefit (Table 1) [13].

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<th>Author year</th>
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<td>Mobil unity of stroke</td>
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<td>Bergrath 2012</td>
<td>TeleConsultation (TeleMetry and Video)</td>
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<td>Audebert 2009</td>
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<td>Schwam 2009</td>
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<td>PACS DICOM vs TeleJPEG2000 compression 5y10/1</td>
<td>Well ASPECTS scale in movil [24]</td>
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Table 1: Resume of some papers.

As a particular conclusion from the radiological aspect, the technology prevailed and standards were achieved in both modalities radiology and teleradiology, giving equivalence of face-to-face and distance reading by Telemedicine.

Other advantages to explore for the future are the reliability of electronic devices advantages to prevent the spread of infectious diseases for example.

The comfort and privacy of the patient to be attended to remotely conservation of private subjects. Many patients will prefer a non-displaced teleconsultation with privacy and eye contact through a camera or remote wearables than having to share their vulnerability with the entire healthcare team.

Another advantage to explore can be the security of the information. Without losses and with globalized access. There is still a long way to investigate and define [25].

But undoubtedly the internet is here to stay and with this paradigm shift, health will evolve hand in hand. This is a small approach to a world of possibilities for patient medical interaction in the context of future telemedicine.

Barriers

Difficulties of some patients have been documented for the correct completion of the web form, related with digital alphabetization, and as all the forgetting of the passwords, in general are the biggest difficulties, besides the analysis of each case can take up to 24 hours to fix, with the consequent anxiety that presents the patient pending its radiopathological correlation.

Opportunities

Patients are becoming aware of the importance of their own management of the disease and with technological support are continuously updated through the pages of medical content and social networks that are directed from the web portal.

Conclusion

Patients are increasingly migrating to technological services of all kinds, in Colombia specifically the presence of approximately 14 million cell phones [26] favors the interaction of the financial system and currently the health service to schedule appointments, schedule surgeries and procedures, from the knowledge of the authors, this type of Tele-Revisiones in spanish or TeleReview service provided through the portal is unique in its type and is part of the effort of telemedicine implementation of the University of Antioquia with its master degree project in agreement with the University Oberta of Catalonia.

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