

Virtual Outreach: a randomised controlled trial and economic appraisal

Submission date 09/01/2002	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 09/01/2002	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 25/08/2009	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
HTA 96/02/05

Study information

Scientific Title

Study objectives

The project was designed to evaluate the feasibility of teleconferenced medical consultations (TMCs) at the interface between primary and secondary care. The key research objectives were:

1. To determine the views of specialists, GPs and patients about TMCs
2. To test the feasibility of TMCs
3. To determine which specialties are most suited to TMCs
4. To make plans for a randomised controlled trial of TMCs.

The key issues of interest related to the relative value of real time teleconferenced medical consultations (TMCs) as an alternative to routine outpatient referral. The study was designed to evaluate the potential of TMCs to improve patients' health and satisfaction, and to lead to more efficient usage of health service resources in terms of tests and investigations, procedures, operations and prescriptions. We were particularly interested to find out whether the joint consultations could reduce the number of outpatient and GP consultations following the index consultation. In addition, the study was designed to examine the educational and organisational impact of TMCs. The pilot study was carried out in order to test the feasibility of a full-scale trial. In particular we wished to find out whether we could recruit adequate numbers of patients, whether standard instruments could be used effectively to measure the key outcomes, and whether we would be able to measure the educational and organisational impact of introducing TMCs.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration.

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Teleconferenced medical consultations

Interventions

Videoconference link (tele-consultation) versus routine hospital outpatients consultation

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

The following instruments were used in the trial:

1. A patient demographic and personal details questionnaire
2. S F12 generic measure of well-being

3. Ware Specific Visit Questionnaire (SVQ) for patient satisfaction
4. Speiberger Standing State Anxiety Inventory (STAI)
5. A patient cost questionnaire
6. Duke Severity of Illness questionnaire (DUSOI) to measure the co-morbidity or burden of illness
7. Protocol specifically designed to extract data for hospital and GP records

Key secondary outcome(s)

Not provided at time of registration.

Completion date

31/10/2001

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

All patients referred by the participating general practitioners for a hospital specialist opinion in the following specialty areas: ENT medicine, general medicine (including endocrinology and rheumatology), gastroenterology, orthopaedics, neurology and urology

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Not Specified

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Not provided at time of registration.

Date of first enrolment

01/06/1998

Date of final enrolment

31/10/2001

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences
London
United Kingdom
NW3 2PF

Sponsor information

Organisation

Department of Health (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/03sbpja79>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Industry

Funder Name

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme - HTA (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	main results	08/06/2002		Yes	No
Results article	results	12/07/2003		Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	11/01/2002		Yes	No
Other publications	publication on design and performance of the trial	11/01/2002		Yes	No
Other	HTA monograph				

[publications](#)

01/12/2004

Yes

No