

# Virtual Outreach: a randomised controlled trial and economic appraisal

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

**EudraCT/CTIS number**

**IRAS number**

**ClinicalTrials.gov number**

**Secondary identifying numbers**  
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

## Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Study setting(s)

Other

## Study type(s)

Other

## Participant information sheet

## 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 measure**

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

**Secondary outcome measures**

Not provided at time of registration.

**Overall study start date**

01/06/1998

**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

**Age group**

Not Specified

**Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

2,094

**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**

England

United Kingdom

**Study participating centre**

Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences

London

United Kingdom

NW3 2PF

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Department of Health (UK)

**Sponsor details**

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**Sponsor type**

Government

**Website**

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

**ROR**

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

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Industry

**Funder Name**

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme - HTA (UK)

## Results and Publications

**Publication and dissemination plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**Intention to publish date****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?
<a href="#">Other publications</a>	publication on design and performance of the trial	11/01/2002		Yes	No
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	protocol	11/01/2002		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	main results	08/06/2002		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	12/07/2003		Yes	No
<a href="#">Other publications</a>	HTA monograph	01/12/2004		Yes	No