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Virtual Outreach: a randomised controlled trial and economic appraisal

Submission date 09/01/2002	**Recruitment status** No longer recruiting	[_] Prospectively registered [X] Protocol
Registration date 09/01/2002	**Overall study status** Completed	[_] Statistical analysis plan [X] Results
Last Edited 25/08/2009	**Condition category** Other	[_] 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
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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?
Other publications	publication on design and performance of the trial	11/01/2002		Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	11/01/2002		Yes	No
Results article	main results	08/06/2002		Yes	No
Results article	results	12/07/2003		Yes	No
Other publications	HTA monograph	01/12/2004		Yes	No