Telemedicine in dermatology: Evaluation of secondary and tertiary teledermatology
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Telemedicine
The delivery of healthcare and sharing of medical knowledge by use of information and communication technology (ICT), enabling caregivers and caretakers to work together independently of place and time for the purpose of consultation, examinations or medical procedures, and education.

Teledermatology
The delivery of dermatologic care through telemedicine technology.

Dermoscopy
A non-invasive diagnostic technique that enables an experienced clinician to perform direct microscopic examination of the surface and architecture of skin lesions.

Teledermoscopy
The practice of teledermatology using digital dermoscopic lesion images (with or without clinical images).

(Diagnostic) accuracy
The degree of closeness of the result of a (diagnostic) test to the actual true value (gold standard) of the measured subject.

(Diagnostic) reliability
The ability of a (diagnostic) test to provide the same result with repeated examinations of the same case. A common tool to measure reliability is the use of the kappa coefficient that adjusts the observed agreement for expected chance agreement.
Primary Care

Health services that are the first point of contact for a patient with the healthcare system. In some countries (e.g. The Netherlands, UK) primary care performs a gatekeeper function, performing triage to secondary care.

Secondary Care

Medical care provided by a specialist or facility upon referral by a primary care physician that requires more specialized knowledge, skill, or equipment than the primary care physician has.

Tertiary Care

Highly specialized consultative care; usually on referral from primary or secondary medical care personnel, by specialists working in a centre that has personnel and facilities for special investigation and treatment.

Second Opinion

The process of seeking an evaluation by another physician to confirm the diagnosis and treatment plan of the initial physician, or to offer an alternative diagnosis and/or treatment approach.

A second opinion may be requested by:

1. The patient - doubts about the first diagnosis or suggested course of treatment may lead to a wish for an alternative diagnosis/course of treatment to be investigated; or a wish for confirmation from another doctor.
2. A patient’s carer or a relative (this must be with patient’s consent).
3. General Practitioner - when a GP is unsure about a diagnosis, they may refer to a consultant or another GP.
4. Consultant - it is common for a consultant to ask for a further opinion from a colleague if a case is particularly complicated.

**Intercollegiate Consultation**

This term is best described in the English language as peer consultation; the term means a short-term patient contact that takes place at the request of another specialty, prior to or during hospitalization or treatment in the emergency department without the existence of co-treatment. The question of the consultation is generally limited, usually only of diagnostic or triage nature.

**Tertiary Referral**

The process where a primary or secondary care provider refers a patient to a physician working in a tertiary care centre, more specified to dermatology:

1. Referrer is a dermatologist working in a care facility other than the receiving tertiary centre
2. Referrer is a non-dermatological specialist working in a care facility other than the receiving tertiary centre
3. Referrer is a non-dermatological specialist working in the same tertiary care facility

**Specialized Referral**

The process where a primary or secondary care provider refers a patient to a primary, secondary or tertiary care provider with highly specialized knowledge in a specific field. All tertiary referrals are thus also a specialized referral.