

THE USAGE OF TELEMEDICINE AMONG PATIENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Background: The coronavirus pandemic has placed the public health to emergency. Many countries had to take measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Health care services are affected from this situation and patients with type 1 diabetes (T1D) were putted at risk. Telemedicine is the technology that can offer communication between healthcare's providers and patients by remote appointments.

Aim: the purpose of this study was to present the usage of telemedicine among patients with T1D during Covid-19 pandemic.

Method: The international bibliography was examined to present the impact of telemedicine among patients with type 1 diabetes during pandemic. This study is a literature review and for this purpose the electronic database of PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus were searched using keywords such as "Type 1 diabetes", "telemedicine", "virtual clinic", "covid-19", "pandemic" in English and Greek language for studies for the past 2 years.

Result: The literature review showed that the virtual interactions with patients are detected by call, video consultation, e-mails, and smartphone applications. About the usage of telemedicine most of them wanted video consultations. Patients with T1D have adopt the usage of telemedicine and seems to trust it. Also, many of them are positive to continue remote appointments after the pandemic. A good glycemetic control was observed between the patients who prefer telemedicine. Furthermore, they referred that the coronavirus affected their access to healthcare services by cancelling their appointments.

Conclusion: Diabetes services all over the world had decreased or completely stopped during pandemic putting patients at risk. The use of telemedicine can offer a huge benefit for diabetes care management and generally to the humanity. Despite the fact that video consultations may help patients with T1D, this cannot represent all of them. There is definitely a need of a continuous research to assess the effectiveness of telemedicine both to better understand the outcomes and to fill the gaps.