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## 356 How To Care For Errors of Innate Immunity (EII) Patients During The Pandemic In a Developing Country Without Telemedicine?



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**RATIONALE:** Clinical immunology has advanced exponentially in recent years. Due to the 2020 SARS-coV-2 pandemic, this year was particularly more challenging and our service needed to make efficient adaptations. Our aim was to describe the strategies we developed to provide the best support to our EII patients during this period.

**METHODS:** This is a retrospective study to evaluate our e-mail service from March to August/2020, with messages between doctors and patients in a referral service that assists patients from all over Brazil .

**RESULTS:** Our team involves 12 fellows, 4 graduate students and 2 professors which serves more than 500 EII patients. Telemedicine was not a possibility in our service and we found as a challenge the fear of our patients to expose themselves, leading to unmarked appointments and even infusion of human immunoglobulin (IVIG). During this period, we responded to more than 570 demands by email, including 85 prescription medicines, 36 IVIG renewal process, 39 medical certificates, 20 referral for vaccination, 241 appointment schedules and IVIG infusion, 5 referrals for stem-cell transplantation, 54 medical reports and 95 responses to patients questions, much of which involved fear of exposure.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The SARS-coV-2 pandemic is one of the most difficult periods facing humanity. The development of strategies that we had to raise was even more challenging in the scenario of a public service without telemedicine. Brazil had a major disadvantage in relation to health policies compared to most other countries, especially because social distance are not strongly encouraged by the authorities.

## 357 Covid impact in allergy: patients' perceptions of "virtual" consultations and preferences for the future.



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**RATIONALE:** The COVID-19 pandemic has provided challenges for healthcare professionals to provide medical care to patients. The recent emergence of telemedicine consultation has provided an alternative to "in office" care. Assessing its impact may provide insight to the future of medical diagnosis and treatment. Methods

Telemedicine consultations were provided at an allergy clinic between June and July 2020. Patients (n=207) were provided with a questionnaire after their consultation to assess the following: if healthcare requirements were met when consulted virtually, the consideration of telemedicine for future appointments, and if they would like a hybrid consultation model (initial eConsult and in person follow up). A 7-point scoring system was used to evaluate each question. Scores between 1 to 3 disagreed with varying degrees, a score of 4 was neutral, and scores between 5-7 agreed with varying degrees.

**RESULTS:** Patients scored an average of 5.7 with a standard deviation (SD) of 1.3 with 80% of patients scoring between 5-7 when asked if the virtual consult met all their healthcare requirements. When asked about the use of telemedicine in the future, patients scored an average of 5.3 and a SD of 1.5, with 76% of patients scoring between 5-7. Lastly, patients scored the hybrid consultation model an average of 5.5 with a SD of 1.6, with 79% of patients scoring between 5-7.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The majority of patients believe that virtual consultation provided appropriate medical information and should be used in future

allergy consultations. Furthermore, a hybrid consultation model could be a potential option for future medical consultation.

## 358 Increased adherence to controller medication maintained during the COVID-19 pandemic



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**RATIONALE:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of medication adherence for those with asthma or COPD. A prior study demonstrated an initial increase in medication

adherence among patients with asthma and COPD in March and April 2020, but it is unknown if

this behavior persisted beyond the early months.

**METHODS:** Patients with self-reported asthma or COPD enrolled in a digital self-management

platform, which included an electronic medication monitor (EMM) to capture the date and time of

controller inhaler use, and a paired smartphone app providing feedback and medication

reminders. Data was analyzed from January to May 2020 and assessed changes in mean

controller medication adherence, defined as the mean number of puffs taken divided by the

number of puffs prescribed per day, capped at 100%.

**RESULTS:** 17,095 patients with asthma or COPD were included in the analysis (median age

(IQR): 52 (38-62) years, 72% female, 82% asthma). Mean adherence in the last 7 days of

January was 56.2%. Mean adherence for the last 7 days of each month from February to May

were: 56.5%, 58.6%, 59.1%, and 59.4%, respectively. A larger proportion of patients maintained

75% or greater adherence for the last weeks of April and May (47.6% and 49.1%, respectively)

compared to the first week of January (42.7%).

**CONCLUSIONS:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, patients with asthma and COPD initially increased

their use of controller medications and maintained this behavior through May 2020. Monitoring

patterns of use throughout the pandemic may help characterize patient medication-taking

behavior.