

PREVIOUS VIRTUAL CONSULTATION EXPERIENCE IS RELATED TO PRECEPTOR'S WILLINGNESS TO INVOLVE TRAINEES IN VIRTUAL CARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the need for healthcare service reform in order to reduce the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection between patients, healthcare providers and medical trainees. Gastroenterologists have been challenged to adopt to virtual consultations and accommodate medical trainees in their virtual clinics.

Aims: To assess the impact of virtual care on medical education during the COVID-19 pandemic

Methods: A REDCap survey was disseminated among gastroenterology providers via email. The subsection of the survey on medical education consisted of 4 questions pertaining to inclusion of trainees in virtual clinics, type of virtual clinic, observation method and an open-ended question for additional comments. Quantitative data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27 and qualitative theme analysis was applied for short answer responses.

Results: Of the 24 respondents that completed the survey, only 6 (25%) had trainees involved in their clinics (Table 1). The type of clinic consultations conducted were telephone only (50%), a combination of telephone, video and hospital-base telehealth (33.3%) and hospital-based telehealth only (16.7%). There was an equal split between direct and indirect observations. Preceptors that had previous experience with virtual consultation prior to the pandemic, were more likely to include trainees in their virtual clinics (66.6% vs 33.4%; Fisher's exact test, $p=0.033$). For preceptors who included trainees in their virtual clinics, their overall satisfaction averaged 0.51 points lower (95% CI: 0.19-0.84, $p=0.004$). Concerns identified were lack of trainee engagement, adequate remuneration for healthcare providers, and lack of training for trainee and preceptors on how to navigate virtual platforms.

Conclusions: This survey demonstrates that gastroenterologists with previous experience with virtual clinics are more likely to accommodate trainees in their virtual clinics. However, involving trainees seem to reduce preceptor's satisfaction with virtual clinic. Our findings suggest that there is a need to provide telemedicine training for both educators and trainees, in order to alleviate concerns and promote its

adoption as organizations seek to continue to provide high-quality medical education while providing virtual care.

Funding Agencies: None