

Telemedicine and Telematics in Rural Areas in XXI Century: A Brazilian Experience

ISABELA CORRÊACA VALCANTISÁ

Affiliation: UNIFOR-University of FORTALEZA, Brazil

INTRODUCTION

One of the most serious problems that afflict the health sector in Brazil is the enormous inequality in the distribution of health care resources across the national territory. On one hand, there are interior cities with the most advanced resources; while at the other, there are about 2000 Brazilian municipalities without a single doctor or hospital. Thus, Telemedicine and Telematics become valuable tools for the rural health system, from the expansion of care, covering more needy places to the exchange of information between health professionals about patients to discuss diagnosis and treatment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Qualitative and quantitative study conducted in January 2020, in the city of Pentecost (35 412 inhabitants), a city 107,8 km away from Fortaleza (Ceará's capital), Brazil. Fifteen health professionals were interviewed, including nurses, physiotherapists, dentists and doctors. Questionnaire applied with 10 objective and 2 subjective questions about difficulties and advances, as well as experience in tele health.

RESULTS:

Based on the analyzed data, 80% are men, over 50 years old, 90% report their salary is higher than if they performed the same function in the capital, 50% are dissatisfied with working conditions, 2 out of 3 say do not have telematics as a support tool, and of these, about half do not consider themselves able to use the internet as a mean of support for better treatment of the patient. 100% denied having specific training to conduct online consultation so information platforms.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Brazilian reality is still far from the objectives proposed by telemedicine. Since the interior of the country is managed by the public sector almost exclusively and given the precarious conditions of the population and work, the salary has been the biggest attraction for the specialized mass to go to such regions without preparation. It is suggested that public measures within the scope of better training professionals and modernizing health centers, as well as making the connection between rural areas and central centers become a reality.

BIOGRAPHY:

Isabela Corrêa Cavalcanti Sá is graduating in Medicine at UNIFOR- University of Fortaleza, Brazil. She has internships at [U+5317] [U+4EAC] [U+660E] [U+5FB7] [U+533B] [U+9662] (OASIS International Hospital) in Beijing, China (2016) and at Santa Maria Hospital in Lisbon, Portugal (2018 and 2019). Currently, she is at the end of her medical degree, does internship at Laborocho, a laboratory of pathological anatomy, and coordinates Instagram, YouTube and Twitter pages entitled "Telemedicina Oficial", where she talks mostly about Telemedicine.

