

URODYNAMICS: TELEMENTORING AS A NEW WAY TO REMOTE TEACHING

Hypothesis / aims of study

Although cystometry was first performed since the 19th century the science of Urodynamics still has an essential role in contemporary Urological clinical practice(1).The number of experts does not seem to be sufficient to disseminate the appropriate knowledge in this important area of the specialty. It is well known that still a significant number of urologists show a limited interest in interpreting and specially teaching this issue. Recent study involving residents in training in different Urologic services in USA showed that training in urodynamics is inadequate and suggest a specific curriculum to promote teaching in this field (2).The aim of this study is to introduce the already well known procedure of telementoring to the area of urodynamics.

Study design, materials and methods

This study was developed in 2 centres and has now a participation of 4 urodynamics clinics in different locations. The initial approach included direct connection to the remote machine performing the test which allowed full manipulation of the test both live and after the test had been performed. This procedure allowed password protected access to the whole content of the computer connected to the urodynamics equipment (2). The final project now in use allows access to the tests which are stored at a specially designed portal. Participants of the program can report directly from the website without the need to access the machine. Live participation can be performed in association with visualization of the room where the test is being performed allowing free communication from both sides. Recently we have been able to watch live and report on tests by using late generation mobile phones.

Results

From January 2008 to February 2009 over 300 remote accesses have been performed to the centres involved by different examiners both during and after the tests were performed. No difficulties were found in access or interpretation of tests. Additional phone communication has also been used to offer complementary instructions to the person performing the test.

Interpretation of results

The results obtained with this well known technology can open new windows in terms of teaching urodynamics by giving the chance to experts to help in the dissemination of this knowledge and with this help to benefit training programs where specialists are lacking. From an individual point of view this method can also help independent experts to report in different equipments thus creating a new source of funds and chance to teach.

Concluding message

We report a novel real time model for urodynamics telementoring which we believe provides a wide range of possibilities in terms of improvement in this area by remote access allowing multiple experts to provide advice to different centres independent of distance involved between them. Easy available internet facilities are the basis for the support of this project.

References

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Is this a clinical trial?

No

What were the subjects in the study?

NONE
