Telemedicine and Its Impact on Postoperative Care

Michelle G. Roy, PA-C
Texas Children's Hospital
Department of Surgery, Division of Plastic Surgery
Topic 1: Introduction into Telemedicine

Topic 2: Study Design

Topic 3: Conclusion
Introduction into Telemedicine

• Texas Children’s Hospital is one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the nation and has a high volume of patient visits

• One issue that the Division of Plastic Surgery faces is patients’ capacity to travel to the hospital for clinic visits
  – Resulting in reduced compliance with postoperative follow ups

• Telemedicine is an innovative way of providing visits to patients while removing the inconvenience of travel or the hindrance of cost for the family

Literature Review

The Role of Telemedicine in Wound Care: A Review and Analysis of a Database of 5,795 Patients from a Mobile Wound-Healing Center in Languedoc-Roussillon, France

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Study Design: Inclusion Criteria

- Identify patient that have had simple surgical procedures that have been defined by a fixed list of CPT codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>CPT Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excision of benign lesion (trunk, arms or legs)</td>
<td>11400, 11403, 11401, 11404, 11402, 11406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excision of benign lesion (scalp, neck, hands, feet)</td>
<td>11420, 11423, 11421, 11424, 11422, 11426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of skin tag</td>
<td>11200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjacent Tissue transfer</td>
<td>14000, 14040, 14020, 14041, 14021, 144300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excision of ganglion cyst</td>
<td>25111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigger finger release</td>
<td>26055</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Design

• Offer those families that are within the inclusion criteria a telemedicine postoperative visit

• If a family elects a TM visit, they are provided information on how to use the Vidyo application via a smart device

• On the day of the follow up the family opens link that they were sent to their virtually secure appointment and are connected with a Plastic Surgery APP for postoperative evaluation
Study Design: Work Flow

Choosing a Telemedicine Patient
- Identify patients that meet criteria
- Patient to be flagged in the OR case request

Enroll patient in Telemedicine Study
- Consent obtained at time of visit
- Survey completed at the end of the visit

Scheduling eligible patient
- Confirm patient will be offered TM or regular visit
- Patients that opt for TM visit will be sent a link via scheduler
Study Design

• Consent is obtained prior to beginning visit

• After completion of the postoperative evaluation families are asked to complete a survey about their experience

• The survey evaluates the following:
  – Patient experience
  – Likelihood that they would care for a similar appointment again
  – If they would recommend a virtual appointment to other families
Results

Convenience of Telemedicine Visits for Families

Positive Patient Experience with Telemedicine Visits

Thoroughness of Telemedicine Visits

Addressement of Questions/Concerns

(n=11)
Results

(n=11)
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Conclusion

• Our service has enrolled a cohort of 11 families to participate in this innovative way for postoperative follow up

• A majority of families participating have reported the ease and thoroughness of the encounter, stating:
  – It did not interfere with their daily schedule
  – It was very convenient
  – All concerns were addressed

• Our practice anticipates given the option for telemedicine visits will not only make postoperative follow ups more amendable for our families, but increase compliance rates and access to care