

**"Usefulness and Satisfaction with Telemedicine Service in the Management of Older Patients at High Risk of Fragility Fractures"**

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**Background:** Telemedicine may improve the monitoring of patients with chronic diseases. Secondary prevention of fragility fractures is an urgent matter to be addressed by means of available technology, although supported by little evidence so far. We investigated the feasibility, efficacy, and satisfaction of managing older adults at high risk of fragility fractures during the COVID-19 lockdown.

**Methods:** From January to July 2021, a prospective observational study for safety and adherence purposes was conducted among older patients (n=407) with ongoing treatments for secondary prevention of fragility fractures. The study procedures observe national and regional resolutions related to telemedicine service (TS), including equipment, staff behaviours, and patient reports.

**Results:** A majority (86.48% [n = 352]) of the eligible patients participated in remote visits, mainly women (88.2%), 81.4 ± 8.8 years of age, 49.6% independent in 5 out of 6 BADL, despite high comorbidity (4.9 ± 1.5), and polypharmacy (4.9 ± 3.1). Almost all were on second-line antifracture treatments (95.58%) due to previous major (84.03%) and minor (42.5%) fragility fractures.

About 58% reported good and very good reliability of the internet network, allowing easy access to the TS platform, and 54% declared the degree of satisfaction with TS as good and very good.

Regarding the clinicians, about 75% of them acknowledged the efficacy of TS and expressed willingness to recommend the use of TS to colleagues. Ultimately, 68% of specialists defined the time dedicated for patients' remote visits as acceptable.

**Conclusion:** TS may be a chance to increase the availability of appropriate health care services to satisfy patients' needs and optimize health care resource allocation.