



**Perspective of Pediatricians on the Use of Teleconsultation
in an Outpatient Setting during the COVID-19 Pandemic:
*A Cross-sectional Study***

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BACKGROUND

“59% of total respondents indicated being highly satisfied with initiation of telephone consultation service during the COVID-19 pandemic”

Neshnash, et. al. (202) Satisfaction of primary care physicians towards initiation of phone consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic management in Qatar: a cross-sectional study

Greater openness and willingness to adopt telehealth services

Helou et. al. (2020). The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Physicians' Use and Perception of Telehealth: The Case of Lebanon.



GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To assess pediatricians' perception, attitude, and practices on teleconsultation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To assess the likelihood of board certified pediatricians and pediatric residents in training to use teleconsultation as an alternative in providing care.

To assess the usefulness and effectiveness of teleconsultation in the practice of board certified pediatricians and pediatric residents in training.

To assess board certified Pediatricians and Pediatric residents in training's satisfaction in utilizing teleconsultation.



METHODOLOGY

Cross-sectional study

SAMPLE SIZE: 84



INCLUSION CRITERIA

All board-certified pediatricians and residents-in-training in a province in Northern Luzon who are using teleconsultation in their practice

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Pediatrics consultants and residents who are not practicing in a province in Northern Luzon

Board-certified pediatricians and residents-in-training who are not using online consultation

Pediatric consultants and residents-in-training who did not completely answer the questionnaire



RESULTS

RESPONDENTS FOUND
TELEMEDICINE SERVICES USEFUL

RESPONDENTS WERE SATISFIED
WITH TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

INTERACTING WITH
TELEMEDICINE IS OFTEN
FRUSTRATING

TELEMEDICINE IS BENEFICIAL

RESPONDENTS AGREED TO
ADOPT AND USE TELEMEDICINE

**3 OUT OF 5
LIKELY TO USE
TELECONSULTATION**

Table 5. Correlation matrix of perception, attitude, and practices on telemedicine services

VARIABLE	Usefulness	Ease of use	Intention	Actual use	Satisfaction
Usefulness	1.0000				
Ease of use	-0.3208*	1.0000			
Intention	0.1841	0.1632	1.0000		
Actual use	-0.2088	0.3127*	-0.0028	1.0000	
Satisfaction	-0.2631*	0.4269*	-0.1088	0.6331*	1.0000

Table 6. Ordinal regression of frequency of use of telemedicine services and study variables

VARIABLE	COEFFICIENT	STD. ERROR	P-VALUE	PSEUDO R²
Sex (Male)	2.7972	1.2662	0.0270 *	0.3637
Age	-0.3486	0.0588	0.0000 *	
Usefulness	0.0618	0.1154	0.5920	
Ease of use	-0.3430	0.2101	0.1030	
Intention to use	0.4098	0.1272	0.0010 *	
Actual use	0.0721	0.1692	0.6700	
Satisfaction	0.0071	0.1039	0.9460	

CONCLUSION

Majority of the study participants were likely to use telemedicine services as an alternative in providing care.

They generally find telemedicine as useful, hence they expressed favorable intention on its adoption and use, and accordingly, they are satisfied practicing it.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Relevant trainings, capability building activities, and incentive mechanisms would help better communicate and capacitate physicians on the use and appreciation of telemedicine services.

Clinical workflow might need to be adjusted to allow integration with the use of telemedicine services.

