primary studies - published, non RCT

Telemedicine Home Program in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis: Results after 10 Years.

Code: PM26794821 **Year:** 2015 **Date:** 2015 **Author:** Murgia F

Study design (if review, criteria of inclusion for studies)

Prospective controlled study

Participants

A group of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients. 16 CF patients were followed by doctors experts in the treatment of CF, over a period of 4.5 years. We compared a control group among patients seen in the past for an identical period, matching for number, age, sex, respiratory function, bacterial colonization, O2 dependency, and complications. 16 CF patients with similar characteristics of age, degree of pulmonary involvement, bacterial colonization and O2 dependency.

Interventions

Telehomecare (THC).

Outcome measures

Forced Expiratory Volume in the first second (FEV1) was monitored at home, with the aim of an early recognition of the relapses of pulmonary infections. FEV1 was monitored for 4.5 years, using THC as a tool, in addition to the standard therapeutic protocol.

Main results

Spirometry data showed a significant improvement in annual Fev1 mean values for the THC patients as compared to the control group.

Authors' conclusions

The data are encouraging for a possible role of Telemedicine as a tool for domestic assistance of patients affected by chronic diseases, such as CF. However, reliable data on the long-term effectiveness of the use of THC in the treatment of CF patients is still lacking. The time has come to obtain reliable data through a multicenter collaboration study, also in order to standardize the international Telemedicine protocols.

http://dx.doi.org/10.7417/T.2015.1905

See also

Clin Ter. 2015 Nov-Dec;166(6):e384-8. doi: 10.7417/T.2015.1905.

Keywords

Adult; Caregivers; Home; Home Care Services; Lung Transplantation; non pharmacological intervention - psyco-soc-edu-org; non pharmacological intervention - surg; telemedicine; transplantation; Depression; Mental Disease-Psychiatric Conditions; Organization;