



Editorial

Teledentistry: A tech tool to change dental practice

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Received: 15-06-2025-2025; **Accepted:** 07-07-2025; **Available Online:** 25-07-2025

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Dental care is being persistently renovated by the opportunities provided by technology and telecommunication. Due to a massive development in technology Teledentistry has an imminent role in changing the Dental practice. Teledentistry is defined by Cook as the practice of using videoconferencing technologies to diagnose and provide advice about the treatment over a distance. It is the usage of evidence, technology and broadcastings to distribute dental care facilities remotely. It permits dentists to offer consultations, diagnoses, and for treatment planning to patients in diverse localities, using technologies like video conferencing, distant patient monitoring, and digital imaging. This tactic can expand admittance to upkeep, exclusively for those in inaccessible areas, and can also be used for public awareness and education. It leverages technology to connect patients with dental professionals, facilitating consultations, diagnoses, treatment planning, and even remote patient monitoring. Internet is the basis of modern systems of Teledentistry, being up-to-date and fast, and able to transport large amounts of data. Types of teledentistry includes, real time consultation and stored data forward. Among these two, real time live video conferencing is the best way to enables immediate, head-on sessions with the patients who require consultations. This permits dentists to share patient records, and other data for consultation and diagnosis, so that a proper treatment is rendered, taking care of shielding patient record is fundamental in any alphanumeric healthcare structure.¹

It may be even useful in bed ridden, aged, vulnerable patients, patients who cannot walk to the OPD due to various reasons, pregnant patients and new mothers can also get benefitted by this. Teledentistry helps us to cross the barriers and transport dental care to underserved inhabitants in remote areas. It can rationalize workflows, lessen travel time for both patients and dentists, and hypothetically subordinate costs. It also helps general dentist in taking specialist consultation for offering better treatment for the patients, and even for consulting labs for investigation purpose. It is also helpful in conducting a survey in remote schools or community.

With all the technological developments taking place in the field of teledentistry/ telemedicine, practitioners may eventually link up to virtual dental health clinics and an entirely new era of dentistry can be created. Distant telemedical rheostat of robotized instruments in circumstances with long-term unobtainability of dental/ medical care, e.g., in emergency specialist intervention, during space flights, and in numerous rural areas. Recently In a groundbreaking achievement, India's indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra, successfully conducted two robotic cardiac surgeries via telesurgery over a distance of 286 kilometers.²

The results achieved so far are very encouraging, setting the road signs for future investigations which are going to help us in teleconsultations, telediagnosis, and telemonitoring.

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Though it is the fastest, tool to bridge the rural-urban health care sectors, but for remote areas admittance to technology and dependable internet connectivity can be a blockade to using Teledentistry.

Source of Funding

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Reference

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Cite this article: Ahuja A, Ahuja V. Teledentistry: A tech tool to change dental practice. *J Dent Panacea.* 2025;7(2):64-65.