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## Uptake of telehealth in Parkinson's disease clinical care during the COVID-19 pandemic: an Italian online survey

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*Introduction:* Traditionally, medical care and research in Parkinson's disease (PD) have been conducted with in-person encounters. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted the delivery of in-person clinical care and clinical research.

*Objective:* We aimed to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on access to telehealth care, interviewing both PD patients and neurologists through an online survey.

*Methods:* Survey responses were collected from 1 March to 31 May 2021 through an anonymous, self-reported questionnaire, on the on line platform.

*Results:* The survey was completed by 197 PD patients and 42 neurologists. Alternatives to in-person visits (SMS, chat, telephone, email, video consultation) were used by 37.56% of PD patients and 88.10% of neurologists. Among the available tools, video consultation was chosen by 13.70% of PD patients and 40.48% of neurologists. Participants reported being generally satisfied with their experience. In particular, the patient-neurologist interaction appeared to be the element that most positively affected the video consultations.

*Conclusions:* The current results suggest a need for flexibility in conducting office visits and clinical trials in PD patients. Technology has the potential to enhance patient care and convenience, when in-person visits can be challenging.