

Review of: "Impact of Telemedicine on Post-Bariatric Surgery Outcomes and Patient Satisfaction During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Retrospective Observational Study"

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The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for patients and healthcare providers, especially for those working with obesity and related health problems. E-health has emerged as a crucial tool for the follow-up of users undergoing bariatric surgery during this period, allowing remote monitoring of users' health status and providing access to virtual consultations with health professionals. This study aims to analyze the impact of the use of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic on the results of bariatric surgery, surgical safety outcomes, and user satisfaction with this follow-up. In the database of a Bariatric Center, 108 patients underwent bariatric surgery and made up the analysis population. As inclusion criteria for the sample, participants had to have undergone bariatric surgery in 2020 with follow-up via telemedicine or other e-health technologies and consented to participate in the study. By applying these criteria, the authors were left with a sample of 80 patients, a somewhat insufficient number for a correct and realistic analysis. The analysis instruments are correctly defined. All conditions were respected, including those of research ethics and deontology. Regarding the limitations of this study, the inherent limitations of cross-sectional studies are present, namely that it is impossible to establish a cause-and-effect relationship. However, it is an important starting point for future research. Bariatric surgery is a form of weight loss treatment for the severely obese. However, follow-up care is crucial to ensure the success and safety of the procedure. Electronic health technologies can play a significant role in post-bariatric surgery follow-up. Telemedicine allows healthcare providers to monitor patients remotely through video conferencing, messaging, and other digital means. This technology can save time and resources for both users and caregivers while ensuring efficient follow-up. E-health technologies can be very useful for post-bariatric follow-up. The small number of subjects could affect the study, resulting in some imperfect conclusions. Telemedicine was shown to be a viable alternative to in-person visits for postoperative follow-up in bariatric surgery patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clinical outcomes, including complication rates, weight loss, and comorbidity resolution, were similar between the two groups. Moreover, patients appreciated the convenience of telemedicine, although some still valued in-person assessments for certain aspects of care.