



KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF FILIPINO DENTISTS ON THE USE OF TELEDENTISTRY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Principal Investigator: Leah Gabrielle A. Peña, DMD Supervising Investigator: Kristine O. Medel, DMD, MDS
Pediatric Dentistry Division, Philippine Children's Medical Center

INTRODUCTION

Teledentistry has been made part of the "new normal" standard of care to continue to provide treatment with minimal risk of further spreading COVID-19 infection and help decrease hospital burden with patients suffering from oral diseases. The goal of the study was to evaluate the Filipino dentists' knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding the use of teledentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULTS

Analysis of 195 survey responses revealed that more than half of them (53.8%) had a high level of knowledge, 53.3% had a favorable attitude, and 55.4% highly practiced teledentistry. A positive correlation were noted between knowledge, attitude and practice, and, a significant variations in practice level were observed among the different generation, years of employment, and hours spent online for practice-related activities.

METHODS

This is a descriptive cross-sectional study using a self-administered, electronic survey conducted among the members of Philippine Dental Association. The questionnaire was designed to gather information on respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge about teledentistry, attitudes towards its advantages in dental practice and patient care, and their practices in the use of ICT in the dental setting.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The integration of teledentistry as advised by health organizations during this pandemic may have had a positive impact in the level of knowledge, attitude and practices among Filipino dentists. Early introduction to undergraduates and provision for continuous training for professionals, as well as the development of policies and guidelines to safeguard the privacy and security of all users, are recommended to promote its utilization post-pandemic.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices, Teledentistry, COVID-19, Information Communication Technology (ICT)