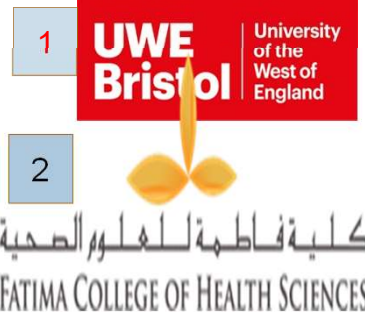


Remote Adult Neurorehabilitation by Physiotherapists using technologies during and beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: An International Online Survey



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BACKGROUND

- ▶ Physiotherapy rehabilitation is a fundamental component of multidisciplinary management for people with adult neurological conditions.
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has seen changes in professional practice across the globe
- ▶ Telerehabilitation (TR) delivery has continued care remotely and virtually, given face-to-face unfeasibility.

AIM

The main aim of this study was to explore the remote provision of physiotherapy rehabilitation using technologies in patients with common adult neurological conditions during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic phase.

METHOD

Design: Cross-sectional Online survey

Platform: Qualtrics

Countries: UK, USA, Canada, UAE, India, Australia, South Africa & Singapore through registered professional bodies

Participants: Physiotherapists practicing in neurological rehabilitation

A questionnaire was developed based on existing literature

RESULTS

- ▶ A total of 56 participants responded
- ▶ 35 (76%) were from the UK, seven (15%) were South Africa, three (7%) from Australia and one (2%) was from UAE, others not reported.
- ▶ Stroke, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis and Spinal cord injuries were commonly seen conditions
- ▶ Most common technologies during COVID pandemic were telephone 45/46 (98%), video conference 45/46 (98%), recorded videos 28/42 (65%), and mobile apps 29/33 (65%).
- ▶ Lack of support at home 16/40 (40%), technical issues 17/40(30%), internet issues 13/40 (33%) were some of the reported challenges / barriers for patients to access TR.
- ▶ 35/43 (81%), 36/42 (86%) were likely to use telephone and video consultation
- ▶ Nearly 80% (n=37/46) were concerned about the safety & efficacy (risk of falls & unable to correct techniques)

CONCLUSION

Despite reminders we had very low response rates for an international based survey.

Based on the responses received, therapists are likely to use technology based rehabilitation beyond pandemic phase.