Telemedicine for antenatal surveillance of high-risk pregnancies

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Keywords: telemedicine, obstetrics & gynaecology, patient monitoring

Introduction. A good field to apply telemedicine and the tele-ultrasound technology is the high-risk pregnancy [1,2]. A high-risk pregnancy generally involves at least one of the following: the mother or baby is more likely to become ill or die than usual or complications before or after delivery are more likely to occur than usual [3, 4]. A high percent of women who deliver prematurely do not present any known risk factor [5].

Material and method. In the high risk pregnancy management, we are using TeleView as a telemedicine software module. It is especially designed to allow users of PC based ultrasound scanners to ask for remote assistance from an ultrasound expert centre.

Discussions. The success in reducing the preterm-birth rate, and/or the incidence of low birth weight, reported by using various prevention programs, has been fluctuating. The cost of telemedicine services will be readily justified by the resultant antenatal and neonatal cost reductions, if they are used in these cases.

Conclusions. At the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynaecology the possibility to use videoconferencing technology and to develop a tertiary level tele-ultrasound service presents a challenge which consists in finding a technical and clinical solution to enable such a service to cater for the need for access to tertiary centre experts of those living in rural areas, and thus to improve the access to a specialist care.

Acknowledgments: Numeris Company; Work supported by grant 99-II CEEX 03 - INFOSOC 4091/31.07.2006

References


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