

## Editorial

# Telemedicine in Orthopedics Systematic Review Patient Orthopedic Surgeon Communication

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The COVID-19 pandemic placed the telemedicine as the recommended approach to personal protection. The necessary protection in orthopedics and traumatology includes personal protection equipment (PPE) and a recommendation to reduce personal contacts. Planned and trauma patients can be pre-consulted with the help of telemedicine solutions and ICT. The objective of this systematic review was to examine the use of telemedicine in orthopedics. The primary purpose of this study is to review and present current evidence of what kind of technologies and what kind of orthopedic problems are elaborated using telemedicine in orthopedics, including orthopedic trauma and spine surgery. PubMed, Scopus, ScienceDirect, ProQuest, and Web of Science were searched covering the period from 2000 to march 2020. Peer-reviewed English studies were included if they delivered information about the telemedicine use in orthopedics. The patient-orthopedic surgeon communication via telemedicine was considered in particular. The Pubmed database identified a total of 551 papers. Seven papers were confirmed as containing

required data by the inclusion criteria. Studies concerning the orthopaedic treatment of patients with orthopedic injuries and disorders and also patient to orthopedic surgeon communication are published relatively rarely. Telemedicine may not become a substitute for the regular practice in orthopedics. However, it may deliver a significant contribution to improving services for orthopedic patients using telemedicine solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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