

TELEPHARMACY: A PILOT EXPERIENCE IN TIMES OF COVID-19 IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL

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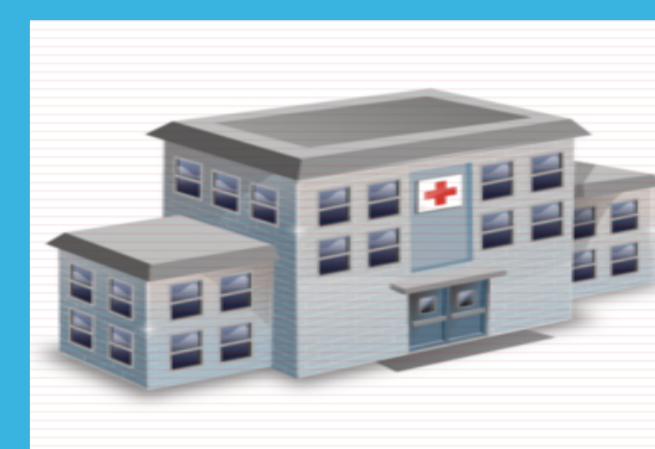
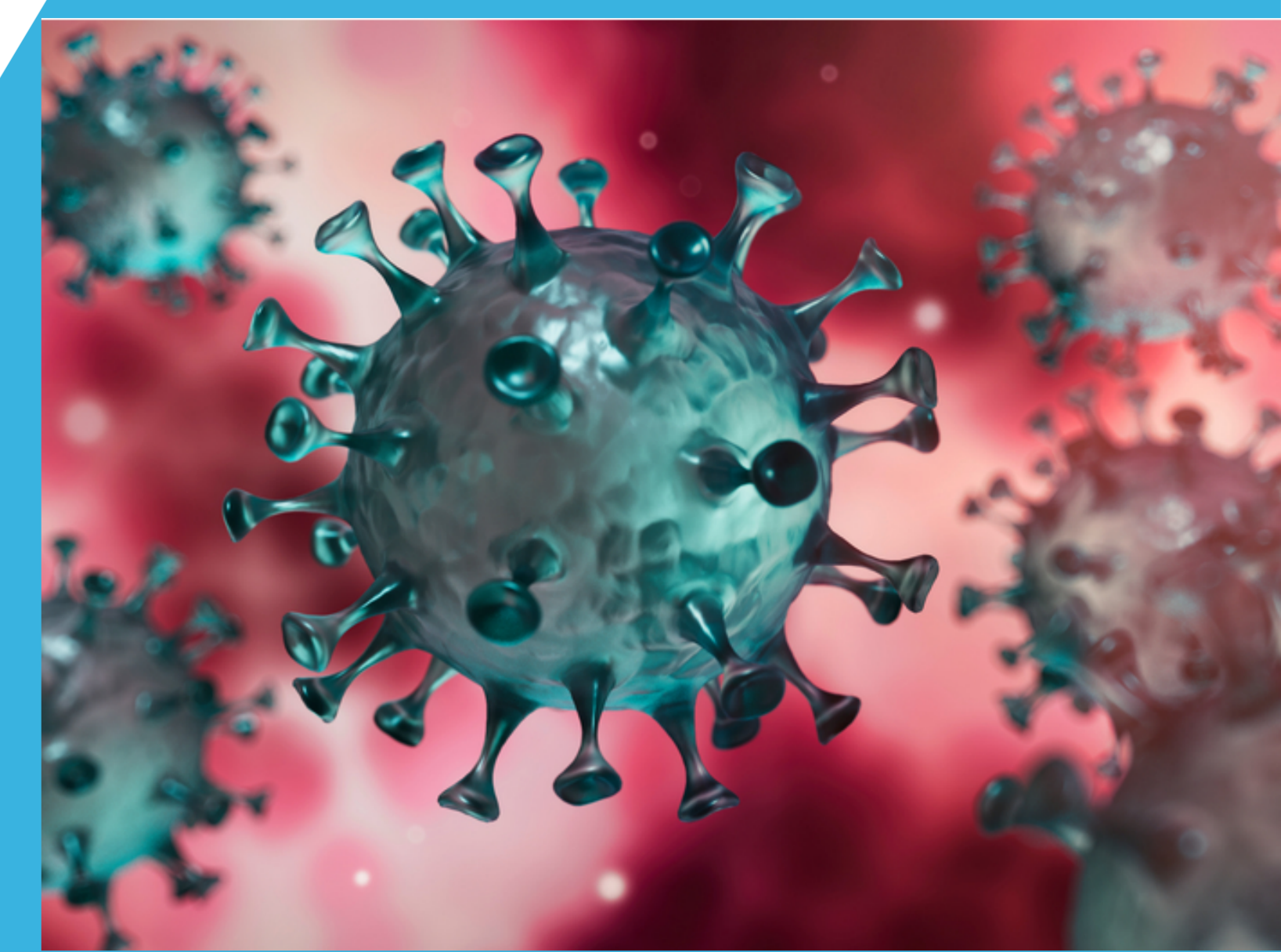
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Background and Importance

The use of telepharmacy technology allows pharmacists to provide clinical pharmaceutical services to patients who need regular services during the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining distance and minimizing face-to-face meetings.

Aim and Objectives

To analyze the implementation of a telepharmacy system in a tertiary hospital as a pilot project during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Material and Methods

- Prospective observational study from March 2020 to May 2021 in the Outpatient Unit (OU) of the Pharmacy Service of a tertiary hospital.
- Telepharmacy was implemented by selecting patients who agreed to participate in this project.
- A circuit was established in which the pharmacist carried out pharmaceutical care to collect relevant information on the pharmacological treatment of the patients, validated the treatment and proceeded to carry out the hospital dispensing, followed by the dispatch of medication to the Pharmacy Office closest to the patient's home.
- Once the medication had been dispensed, the hospital pharmacist performed pharmacotherapeutic follow-up telephonic consultations to check that everything was correct.

Results

5878 patients were attended at the OU

2875 (48.9%) were selected to benefit from the implementation of telepharmacy

15500 (46.2%) hospital dispensations were done through the telepharmacy system, with an average of **6 hospital dispensations per patient**.

The largest number of patients served by the telepharmacy system were:

Neurology (363, 14.6%) with 2136 dispenses (18.0%), followed by **Rheumatology** (348; 14.0%) with 1832 dispenses (15.5%), **Dermatology** (191; 7.7%) with 889 dispenses (7.5%) and **Pneumology** (112, 4.5%) with 792 dispenses (6.7%).

The average number of dispensations per month at OU was **2700 dispensations**, of which 1500 were face-to-face, and 1200 were shipments.

Conclusion and Relevance

- The implementation of telepharmacy has been a new challenge for the Pharmacy Service.
- It has proved to be a helpful tool to facilitate pharmaceutical care and hospital dispensing of medicines during the pandemic, avoiding face-to-face visits.