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Exploring Agreement and Acceptance between Virtual Home Visits and In-person Home Visits for Peritoneal Dialysis patients—A Paired Study

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Objectives: Virtual home visit may improve chronic diseases management, however whether it is suitable for peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients has not been fully studied. This study aimed to compare the agreement and acceptance between virtual home visits and in-person home visits in this patient population.

Methods: A total of 30 PD patients were enrolled in a single center. The content of home visit is divided into three parts, domestic habits, bag exchange procedure and exit site care. Checklists for home visit, questionnaires for satisfaction both in patients and nurses were designed to assess the consistency of information collected, attitudes toward visits and socioeconomics.

Results: The information collected between virtual home visits and in-person home visits, included 166 items, three parties, were highly consistent ($\kappa=1.76$, $P=0.41$). There were 33/57, 30/56, 24/53 items in domestic habits, bag exchange procedure and exit site care respectively were almost perfect consistency in virtual home visits and in-person home visits. 23/57, 26/56, 28/53 items respectively in the three parties were observed substantial consistency. Only 2 items in virtual home visits did not confirm with in-person home visits. Patients showed almost identical satisfaction for virtual home visits and in-person home visits in the investigation ($P=0.7$). Similarity ease of completing and patient cooperation were reported by PD nurses during the two type visits ($P=0.33$, $P=0.1$, respectively). However, virtual home visits presented more advantages in cost effectiveness than in-person home visits.

Conclusions: virtual home visits had good consistency of information collection compared with in-person home visits. There was no difference in participants satisfaction between the two visit types. Future studies are needed to assess the effects of outcomes for patient survive, hospitalization and peritonitis rate in virtual home visits and in-person home visits.