

Tentative Outline

Special Thematic Issue for The Open Biomedical Engineering Journal

“TELEMEDICINE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CRITICAL SCENARIOS”

Guest editor: Prof. Claudio De Lazzari

Aims and Scope

Telemedicine is essentially the practice of medicine by using telematics solutions to deliver care at a distance. Typically, a physician in one location uses a telecommunications infrastructure to deliver care to a patient at a distant site. In addition to that, non-clinical services, often referred as “telehealth”, may be implemented, such as provider training, continuing medical education or public health education, administrative meetings, and electronic information sharing to facilitate and support assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, and care management. In an emergency situation, like an earthquake or another natural disaster, the problems that medical personnel must face are different and heterogeneous, such as unique identification of the patient; make the patient quickly locatable by rescue staff; make general information about the status of the patient available to the medical staff of structure destination; make the same information available in real time to a coordination center that can thus assign the proper priority to the interventions. Research shows that telemedicine is one of the best solutions to help victims in disaster and remote areas and where there is shortage of specialists. It can be used in disasters also for the purpose of training first receivers to co-operate with specialists in remote locations in order to triage and treat seriously injured victims. In addition to that, in a critical scenario, such as the rise of an epidemic like Coronavirus, telemedicine solutions can support the dramatically increased demand of care both in the screening phase (telemedicine at home) and in providing assistance in intensive care (teleconsulting).

The aim of the proposed special issue is to collect relevant contributions on the topics above introduced. Papers are expected reporting experiences on the effective applications of telemedicine in disaster management in different countries also in the framework of international cooperation. We also expect contributions regarding how telematics solution can support the process of care of patients affected by Covid-19, from the screening phase to ICU treatment in the context of an effective management of Coronavirus epidemic. We also solicit papers such as cost/benefit analysis of telemedicine applications in an emergency scenario or feasibility studies.

Subtopics

- Telemedicine
- Emergency scenario
- Telehealth
- COVID-19
- Pandemic
- Telemonitoring
- Disaster management
- Medical staff
- Data analysis

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