

ARIZONA  
TELEMEDICINE  
PROGRAM



# **Telemedicine Applications (Part 1): Overview**

Ronald S. Weinstein, MD  
Director, Arizona Telemedicine Program

*Lecture #2*

# Telemedicine Consultation



**Telemedicine Clinic – Spoke site**

# **The Provision of Tele- Medical Care**

# How are clinics structured?

- Patient/Referring Clinician
- Spoke Site (Originating Site)
  - *Medical Director*
  - *Site Coordinator*
- Hub Site
  - *Medical Director*
  - *Site Coordinator*

# What makes a good teleconsultation?

- Complete data
  - *Avoid the incomplete consult!*
- Diagnostic images
- Steps in review:
  - Site Coordinator
  - Medical Director
  - Specialist
  - Professional appearance

# Modalities

~~Tactile~~

Visual

Auditory

“Talk is the treatment”

# Virtual Reality Palpation



Tactile – “virtual” palpation

# Modalities

Visual

Auditory

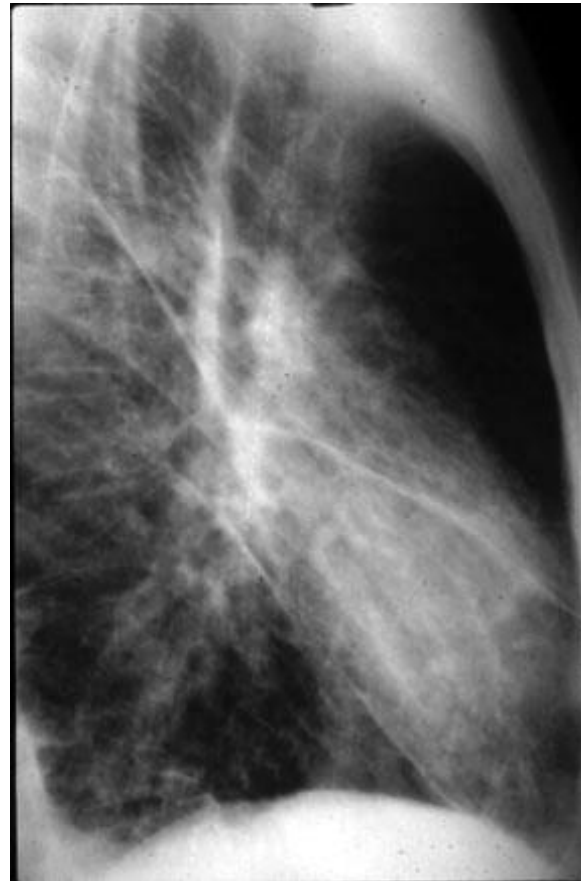
**“Talk is the treatment”**



# Modalities

Visual

# Teleradiology



# Telemammography





## Tele-echocardiography



photo by Andrew Campbell

# Fetal Ultrasound



# Fetal Ultrasound



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s48-hvFevEw>

# Telepathology



# Telepathology -- Whole Slide Imaging



**Aperio**



**Hamamatsu**

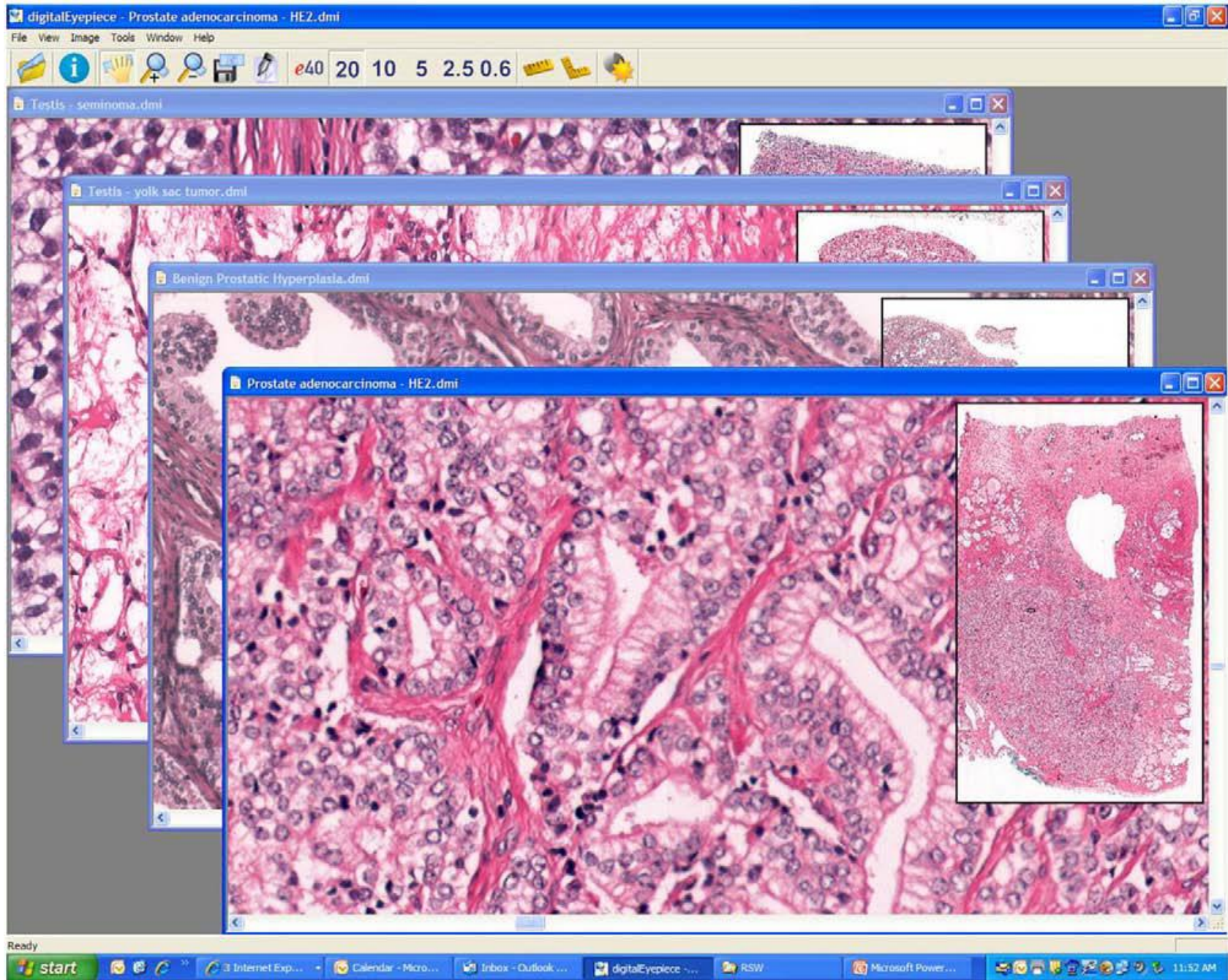


**Zeiss**



**Bioimagene**





# Teledermatology





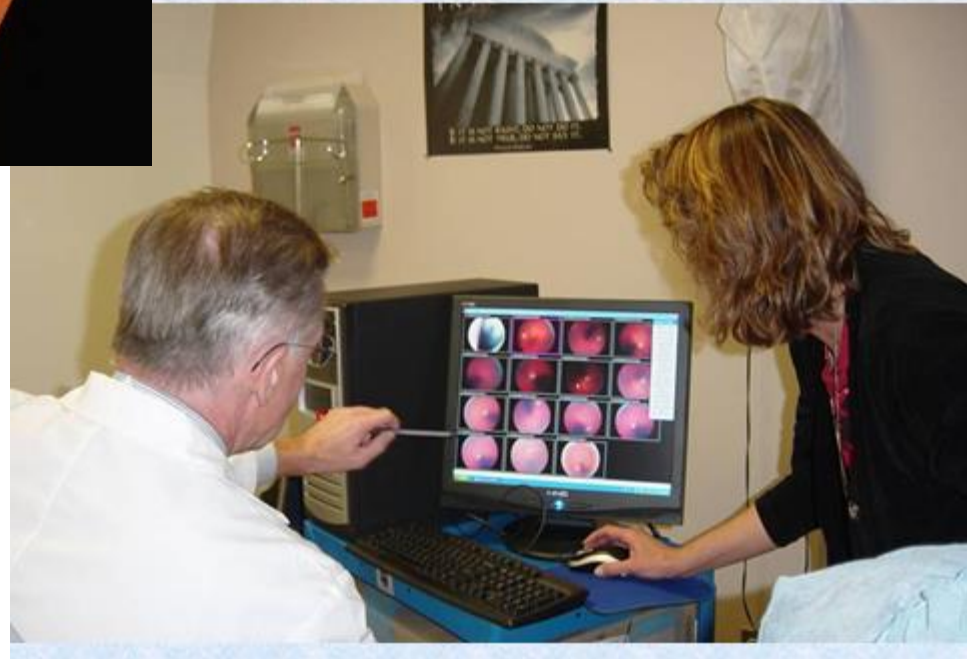


**Teledermatology**

# Teleophthalmology



**Non-Mydriatic Retinal Camera**





# Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)



Viral otitis media *versus* bacterial otitis media





# Teleneurology



# Teleneurology





# Telerheumatology



# Tele-Home Health



# Wound Management



# Modalities

Visual

Auditory

# Electronic Stethoscope







*Dr. Conrad Clemens uses real-time video conferencing and digital stethoscope technology to evaluate a child's asthma.*

# Modalities

Visual

Auditory

**“Talk is the treatment”**

# Telepsychiatry





# “The talk is the treatment”

- Psychiatry/psychology
- Genetic Counseling
- Pain Management
- Nutrition
- Support group
- Hospice care



# Support Groups



# Cancer Genetic Counseling





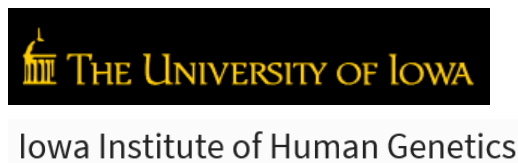
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Utah, Massachusetts, Southern California @  
Irvine  
and Health Departments of Hawaii &  
Washington










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Western States Genetic Services Collaborative

By Elizabeth A. Krupinski on Aug 19, 2015

The need for genetic counselors is immense as there simply are not enough to cover the number of patients requiring their services.

Sound familiar? Can you think of a solution? Telegenetics of course!

But as we all know, you can't just jump into telemedicine without some degree of training. That's where the [Western States Genetic Services Collaborative](#) (WSGSC) comes into play.

WSGSC is a HRSA-funded, multi-state project seeking to improve genetics and newborn screening services through sharing of resources across the region. The WSGSC includes Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

The Telegenetics Education and Training Program is a joint effort organized by the WSGSC and the Heartland Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening Collaborative. Working collaboratively with the Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC) in Tucson, Arizona, and the South Central Telehealth Resource Center (SCTRC) in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Program seeks to train genetics providers, including genetic counselors and medical geneticists, in the use of telehealth in clinical genetics practice.

# Telegenetics Counseling Training



This training was in coordination with the University of Arkansas and the University of Arizona. Participants came from Washington, Hawaii, Arkansas and Kansas. This was a two-day training session with AMA and CEU credits.









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# Gap Service and Tele-urgent Services

1. Gap Services
2. Urgent Services
3. Mandatory Services

**Weinstein RS, Lopez AM, Joseph BA, Erps KA, Holcomb M, Barker GP, Krupinski EA.** Telemedicine, telehealth, and mobile health applications that work: opportunities and barriers. **The American Journal of Medicine.** 2014 Mar 1;127(3):183-7.

telemedicine - Google

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[HTML] **Telemedicine**, telehealth, and mobile health applications that work: opportunities and barriers  
[RS Weinstein](#), [AM Lopez](#), [BA Joseph](#), [KA Erps](#)... - [The American journal of ...](#), 2014 - Elsevier  
There has been a spike in interest and use of telehealth, catalyzed recently by the anticipated implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which rewards efficiency in healthcare delivery. Advances in telehealth services are in many areas, including gap ...  
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Interactive **telemedicine**: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes  
[JF Pappas](#), [M Macneil](#), [LJ Fanning](#)... - [Scandinavian Journal of ...](#), 2014 - scandinavianjournal.com  
Background **Telemedicine** (TM) is the use of telecommunication systems to deliver health care at a distance. It has the potential to improve patient health outcomes, access to health care and reduce healthcare costs. As TM applications continue to evolve it is important to ...  
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The empirical foundations of **telemedicine** interventions for chronic disease management  
[RL Bashshur](#), [GW Shannon](#), [BR Smith](#)... - [Telemedicine and e ...](#), 2014 - liebertpub.com  
The **telemedicine** intervention in chronic disease management promises to involve patients in their own care, provides continuous monitoring by their healthcare providers, identifies early symptoms, and responds promptly to exacerbations in their illnesses. This review set ...  
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Connected health: a review of technologies and strategies to improve patient care with **telemedicine** and telehealth  
[J Kvedar](#), [MJ Coye](#), [W Everett](#) - [Health Affairs](#), 2014 - healthaffairs.org  
With the advent of national health reform, millions more Americans are gaining access to a health care system that is struggling to provide high-quality care at reduced costs. The increasing adoption of electronic technologies is widely recognized as a key strategy for ...  
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**telemedicine reimbursement**

[PDF] Virtual visits—confronting the challenges of **telemedicine**  
[JM Kahn](#) - [N Engl J Med](#), 2015 - pdfs.semanticscholar.org  
Jeremy M. Kahn, MD Traditionally defined, **telemedicine** is the provision of medical care remotely by means of audiovisual technology. Using such technology, clinicians can examine patients and make treatment recommendations across long distances ...  
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The past, present, and future of **telemedicine** for Parkinson's disease  
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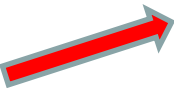
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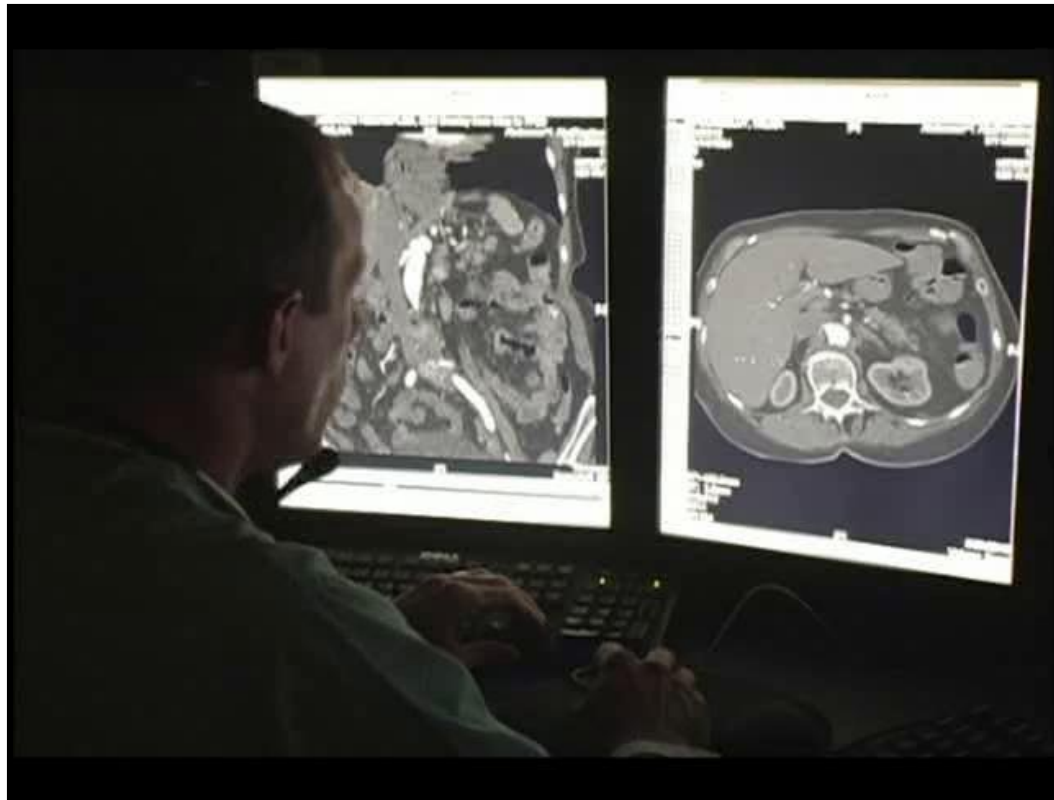
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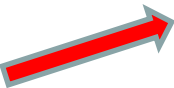

# Gap Service and Tele-urgent Services

- 1. Gap Services  Teleradiology
- 2. Urgent Services
- 3. Mandatory Services

# Teleradiology – 1,400,000+ cases



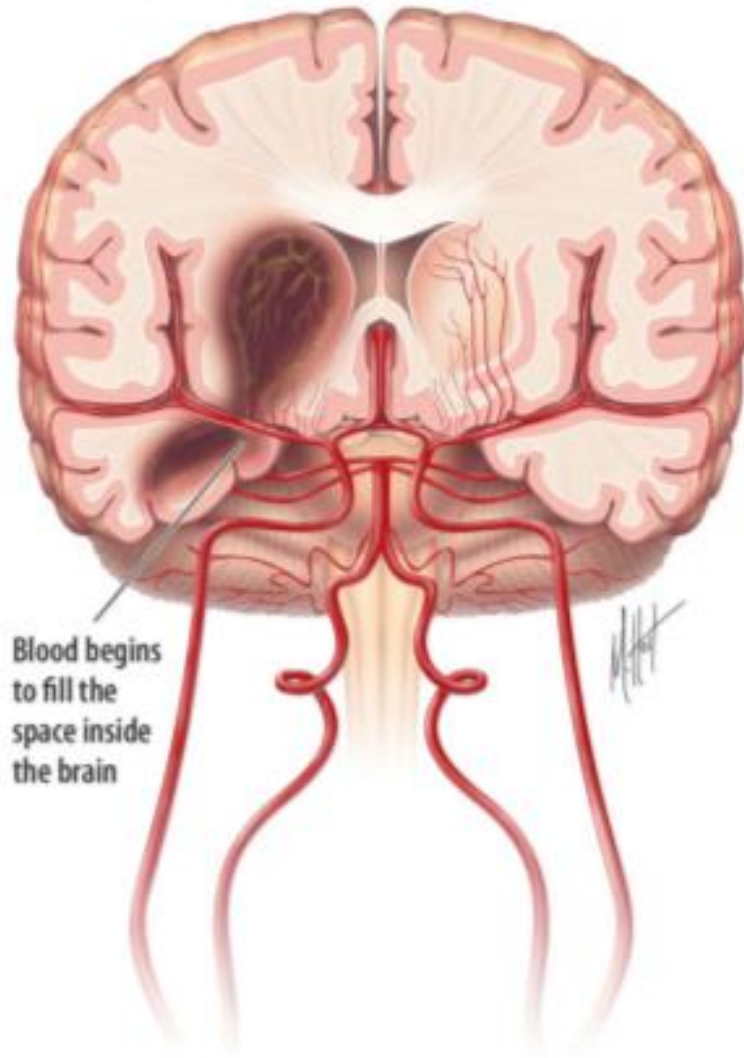
# Gap Service and Tele-urgent Services

- 1. Gap Services  Teleradiology
- 2. Urgent Services  Telestroke
- 3. Mandatory Services



# Strokes

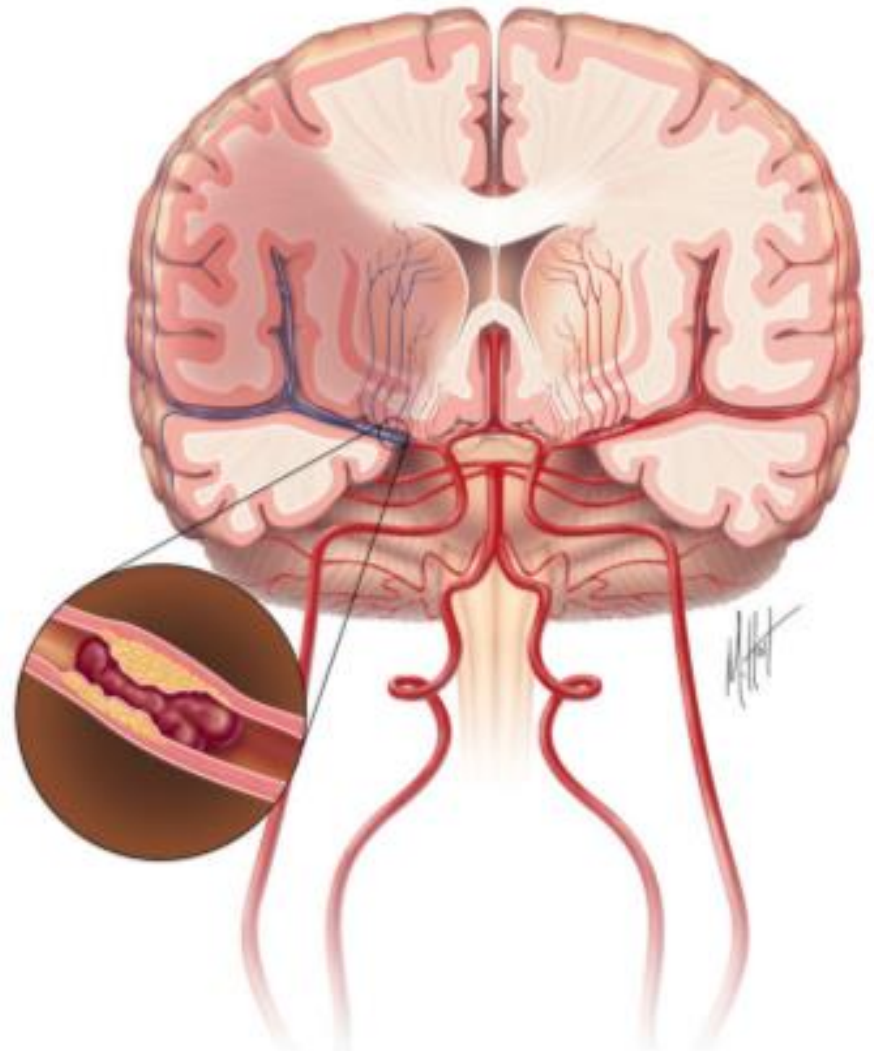
Haemorrhagic (13%)



Blood begins to fill the space inside the brain

Caused by blood vessel rupture.

Ischemic (87%)

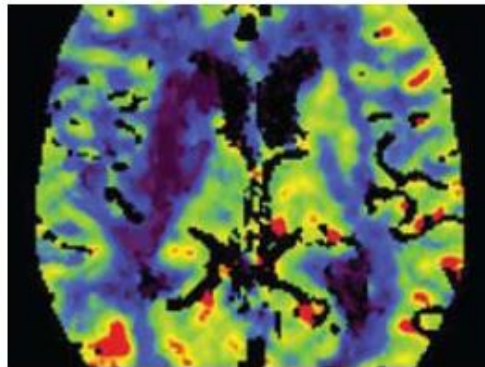


Caused by blockage of blood vessel.

## Reduced Costs

The efficient use of available health care resources is of paramount concern for all health care centers. And, the costs associated with establishing a comprehensive stroke care system may prevent smaller or more rural facilities from implementing effective stroke management.

Resource constraints no longer need to be an obstacle to acute stroke services. For community hospitals and other facilities that cannot afford 24/7 coverage by a neurologist, the TeleStroke program is a cost-effective way to deliver round-the-clock specialty stroke care to more patients.





# The cost-effectiveness of telestroke in the treatment of acute ischemic stroke



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E.J. Skalabrin, MD  
B.M. Demaerschalk,  
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J.J. Majersik, MD, MS

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of telestroke—a 2-way, audiovisual technology that links stroke specialists to remote emergency department physicians and their stroke patients—compared to usual care (i.e., remote emergency departments without telestroke consultation or stroke experts).

**Methods:** A decision-analytic model was developed for both 90-day and lifetime horizons. Model inputs were taken from published literature where available and supplemented with western states' telestroke experiences. Costs were gathered using a societal perspective and converted to 2008 US dollars. Quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) gained were combined with costs to generate incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs). In the lifetime horizon model, both costs and QALYs were discounted at 3% annually. Both one-way sensitivity analyses and Monte Carlo simulations were performed.

**Results:** In the base case analysis, compared to usual care, telestroke results in an ICER of \$108,363/QALY in the 90-day horizon and \$2,449/QALY in the lifetime horizon. For the 90-day and lifetime horizons, 37.5% and 99.7% of 10,000 Monte Carlo simulations yielded ICERs <\$50,000/QALY, a ratio commonly considered acceptable in the United States.

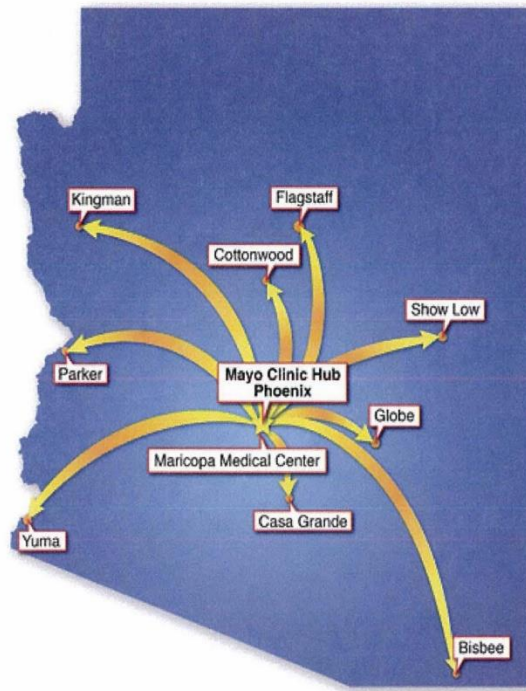
**Conclusion:** When a lifetime perspective is taken, telestroke appears cost-effective compared to usual care, since telestroke costs are upfront but benefits of improved stroke care are lifelong. If barriers to use such as low reimbursement rates and high equipment costs are reduced, telestroke has the potential to diminish the striking geographic disparities of acute stroke care in the United States. *Neurology*® 2011;77:1590-1598



# Telestroke



Stroke telemedicine network at Mayo Clinic in Arizona



Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz., serves as the hub for several remote locations in a stroke telemedicine network.



## CT Interpretation in a Telestroke Network Agreement Among a Spoke Radiologist, Hub Vascular Neurologist, and Hub Neuroradiologist

Bart M. Demaerschalk, MD, MSc; Bentley J. Bobrow, MD; Rema Raman, PhD; Karin Ernstrom; Joseph M. Hoxworth, MD; Ameet C. Patel, MD; Terri-Ellen J. Kiernan, MSN; Maria I. Aguilar, MD; Timothy J. Ingall, MD, PhD; David W. Dodick, MD; Brett C. Meyer, MD; for the Stroke Team Remote Evaluation Using a Digital Observation Camera (STROkE DOC) in Arizona—The Initial Mayo Clinic Experience (AZ TIME) Investigators

**Background and Purpose**—The American Stroke Association guidelines emphasized the need for further high-quality studies that assess agreement by radiologists and nonradiologists engaged in emergency telestroke assessments and decision-making. Therefore, the objective of this study was to determine the level of agreement of baseline brain CT scan interpretations of patients with acute stroke presenting to telestroke spoke hospitals between central reading committee neuroradiologists and each of 2 groups, spoke hospital radiologists and hub hospital vascular neurologists (telestrokeologists).

**Methods**—The Stroke Team Remote Evaluation Using a Digital Observation Camera Arizona trial was a prospective, urban single-hub, rural 2-spoke, randomized, blinded, controlled trial of a 2-way, site-independent, audiovisual telemedicine and teleradiology system designed for remote evaluation of adult patients with acute stroke versus telephone consultation to assess eligibility for treatment with intravenous thrombolysis. In the telemedicine arm, the subjects' CT scans were interpreted by the hub telestrokeologist and in the telephone arm by the spoke radiologist. All subjects' CT scans were subsequently interpreted centrally, independently, and blindly by 2 hub neuroradiologists. The primary CT outcome was determination of a CT-based contraindication to thrombolytic treatment. Kappa statistics and exact agreement rates were used to analyze interobserver agreement.

**Results**—Fifty-four subjects underwent random assignment. The overall agreement for the presence of radiological contraindications to thrombolysis was excellent (0.91) and did not differ substantially between the hub telestrokeologist to neuroradiologist and spoke radiologist to neuroradiologist (0.92 and 0.89, respectively).

**Conclusions**—In the context of a telestroke network designed to assess patients with acute stroke syndromes, agreement over the presence or absence of radiological contraindications to thrombolysis was excellent whether the comparisons were between a telestrokeologist and neuroradiologist or between spoke radiologist and neuroradiologist.

**Clinical Trial Registration**—URL: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. Unique identifier: NCT00623350.  
(Stroke. 2012;43:3095-3097.)

**Key Words:** computed tomography ■ randomized controlled trials ■ rural health ■ rural hospitals ■ stroke  
■ telemedicine ■ telestroke

Stroke. 2012; 43:3271-3277

## Reliability of Real-Time Video Smartphone for Assessing National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale Scores in Acute Stroke Patients

Bart M. Demaerschalk, MD, MSc, FRCP(C); Sravanthi Vegunta, BS;  
Bert B. Vargas, MD; Qing Wu, ScD; Dwight D. Channer, MS; Joseph G. Hentz, MS

**Background and Purpose**—Telestroke reduces acute stroke care disparities between urban stroke centers and rural hospitals. Current technologies used to conduct remote patient assessments have high start-up costs, yet they cannot consistently establish quality timely connections. Smartphones can be used for high-quality video teleconferencing. They are inexpensive and ubiquitous among health care providers. We aimed to study the reliability of high-quality video teleconferencing using smartphones for conducting the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS).

**Methods**—Two vascular neurologists assessed 100 stroke patients with the NIHSS. The remote vascular neurologist assessed subjects using smartphone videoconferencing with the assistance of a bedside medical aide. The bedside vascular neurologist scored patients contemporaneously. Each vascular neurologist was blinded to the other's NIHSS scores. We tested the inter-method agreement and physician satisfaction with the device.

**Results**—We demonstrated high total NIHSS score correlation between the methods ( $r=0.949$ ;  $P<0.001$ ). The mean total NIHSS scores for bedside and remote assessments were  $7.93\pm 8.10$  and  $7.28\pm 7.85$ , with ranges, of 0 to 35 and 0 to 37, respectively. Eight categories had high agreement: level of consciousness (questions), level of consciousness (commands), visual fields, motor left and right (arm and leg), and best language. Six categories had moderate agreement: level of consciousness (consciousness), best gaze, facial palsy, sensory, dysarthria, and extinction/inattention. Ataxia had poor agreement. There was high physician satisfaction with the smartphone.

**Conclusions**—Smartphone high-quality video teleconferencing is reliable, easy to use, affordable for telestroke NIHSS administration, and has high physician satisfaction. (*Stroke*. 2012;43:3271–3277.)



## Photograph depicting the bedside National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) assessment scenario.



**Demaerschalk B M et al. Stroke  
2012;43:3271-3277**

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**Demaerschalk B M et al. Stroke  
2012;43:3098-3101**



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## Stroke Centers and Telestroke

### Stroke Centers

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[Acute Stroke Process](#)  
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##### Comprehensive Stroke Centers

##### Stroke Center Best Practices

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### Telestroke Networks

#### What Is Telestroke?

[Hub and Spoke Model](#)  
[Third-Party Consult Model](#)

#### Key Elements of a Telestroke System

[Equipment and Personnel](#)  
[Common Challenges](#)  
[Best Practices](#)

#### Telestroke Resources

[Telemedicine Providers](#)  
[Link to Organizations](#)

#### Telestroke Network Map

## Telestroke Networks

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) recommends the use of telemedicine, or telestroke, to improve stroke care in rural, remote, or underserved areas.<sup>21</sup>

Discover how telestroke allows for specialized stroke care in underserved areas:

<a href="#">▶ What Is Telestroke?</a>	Learn about the different telestroke models.
<a href="#">▶ Key Elements of a Telestroke System</a>	Find out about equipment, challenges, and best practices associated with telemedicine.
<a href="#">▶ Telestroke Resources</a>	Explore resources on telestroke.
<a href="#">▶ Telestroke Network Map</a>	View telestroke networks on a national scale.

## Safety First!

Before you start exploring, please read the Important Safety Information.

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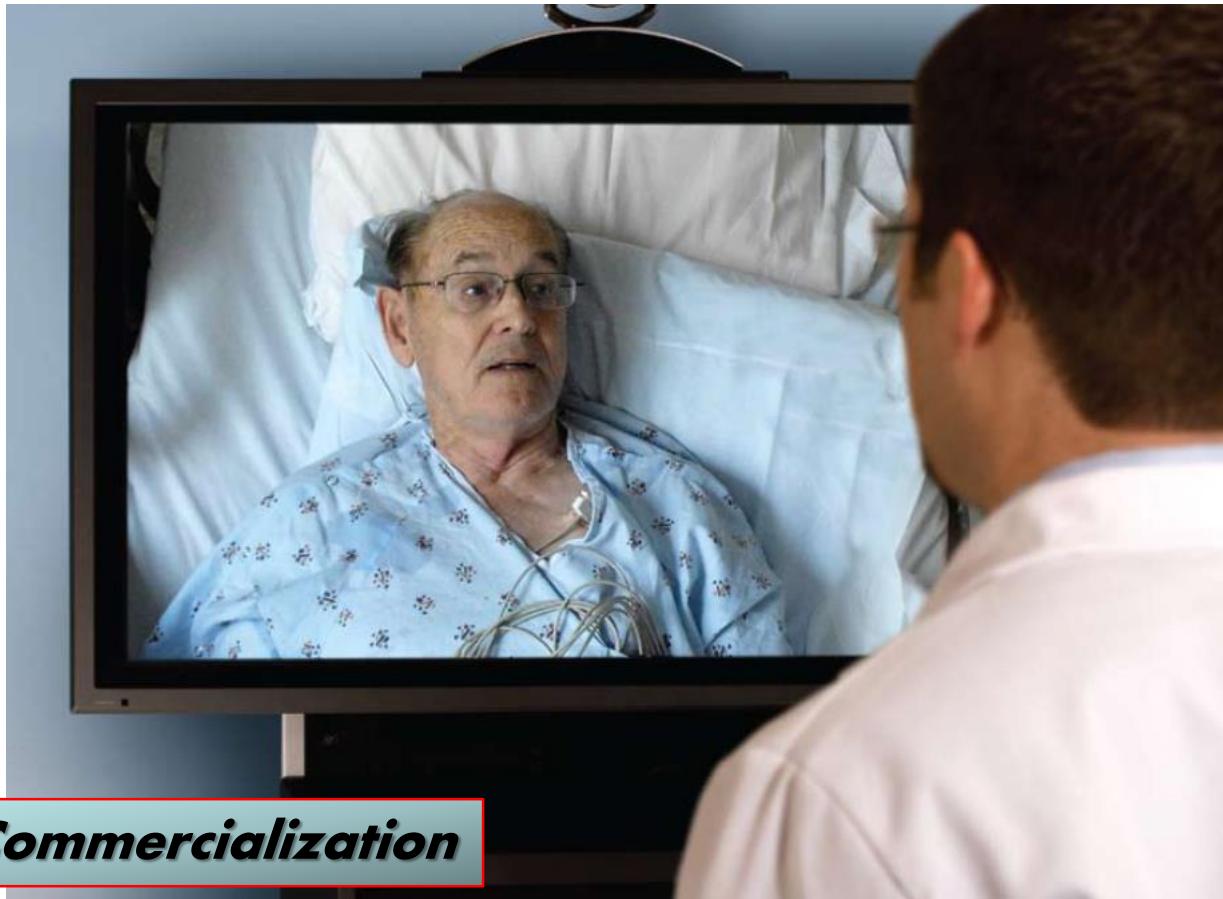


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Activase is indicated for the management of acute ischemic stroke in adults for improving neurological recovery and reducing the incidence of disability. **Treatment should only be initiated within 3 hours after the onset of stroke symptoms, and after exclusion of intracranial hemorrhage by a cranial computerized tomography (CT) scan or other diagnostic imaging method sensitive for the presence of hemorrhage (see CONTRAINDICATIONS in the full prescribing information).**



***Commercialization***

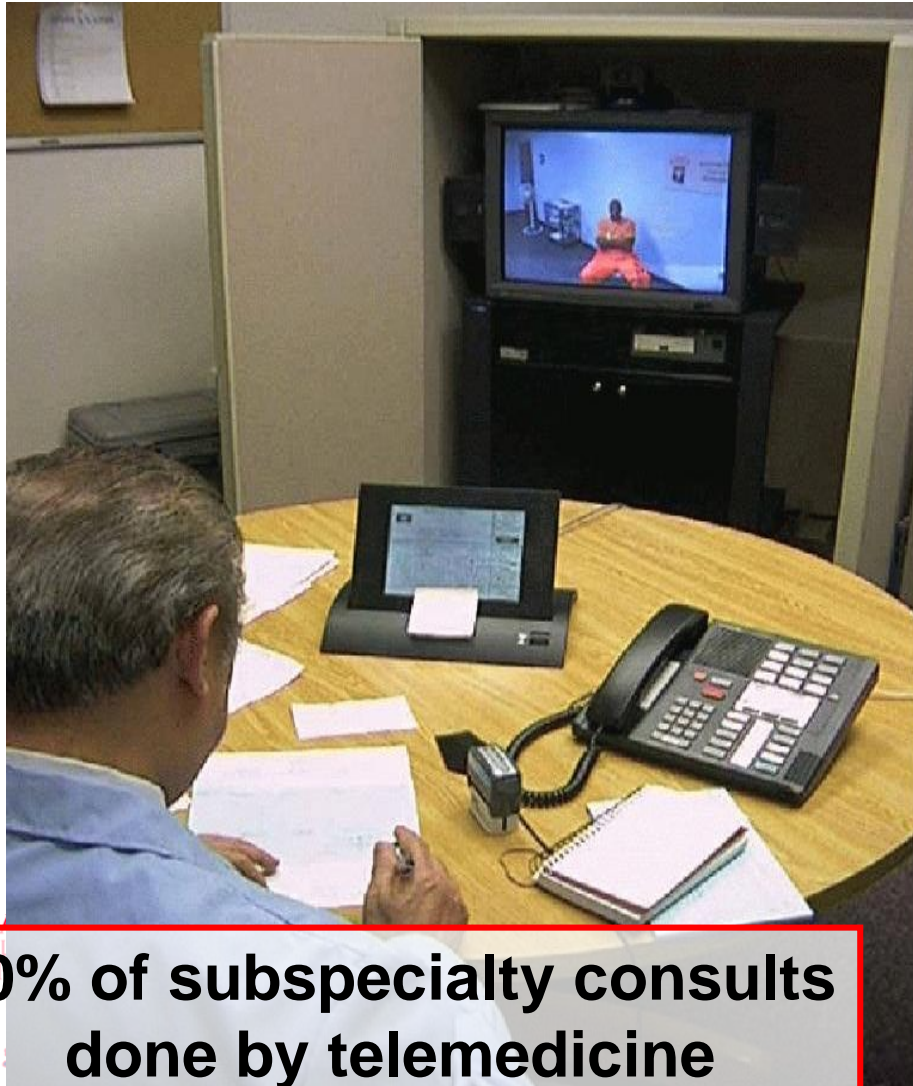
**TeleStroke**  
Supporting Community Hospitals

## Gap Service and Tele-urgent Services

- 1. Gap Services  Teleradiology
- 2. Urgent Services  Telestroke
- 3. Mandatory Services  Infectious Diseases

# Arizona Department of Corrections Telemedicine

## *11 State Prisons/36,000 prisoners*



**80% of subspecialty consults  
done by telemedicine**





# Part II - To Be Continued