

What is already known on this topic

Telemedicine is currently advocated as a mode of healthcare delivery because of its potential to diminish inequalities in service provision and to improve access to care

Studies of interactive teleconsultations have been performed in a diversity of settings throughout the world, and most suggest that patients are satisfied with this mode of healthcare delivery

However, preliminary review of this literature indicates there are still many gaps in knowledge in relation to patient satisfaction with telemedicine

What this study adds

This systematic review of the telemedicine literature demonstrates that methodological deficiencies in the published research affect the validity and generalisability of the results and that communication issues, the quality of interpersonal relationships with this medium, and subsequent effects, if any, on the outcome of consultations have yet to be fully explored

Future research in this subject needs to be more scientifically robust in order to assist policymakers in reaching informed decisions about the appropriate use of this technology

to the wider introduction of this new technology. It is an oversimplification to suggest that this aspect of telemedicine has undergone sufficient scrutiny.

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Corrections and clarifications

Letter

In the issue of 15 April in the first letter on p 1074, headed "Further research is needed on why rates of caesarean section are increasing," we inadvertently omitted the second author's first initial: his name is S W Lindow.

ABC of arterial and venous disease: acute stroke
In this article by Philip M W Bath and colleagues (1 April, pp 920-3), an error persisted to the final published version. The second paragraph in the section "Acute intervention" (p 922), gives the impression that alteplase is currently licensed in New Zealand; it is not.

Guidelines for managing acute bacterial meningitis
In this editorial by Kirsten Møller and Peter Skinthøj (13 May, p 1290), a manuscript note was misread, which led to a redundant "t" and a missing "l" in Møller's email address. The correct address is kirsten.moller@dadlnet.dk.