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Moving from Clinic to Home: What the Future Holds for Ophthalmic Telemedicine

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Abstract

PURPOSE: To describe the expanding role of telemedicine in healthcare, the key criteria required for a successful device and program implementation, and the current and future role of home monitoring in ophthalmology.

DESIGN: Expert perspective

METHODS: Analysis with real-world interpretation of home monitoring technologies including current adoption barriers and expanded future demands based on demographic and market forces.

RESULTS: Remote patient monitoring represents a paradigm shift in the way physicians care for patients. Success depends on meeting several criteria among which are a recognized value proposition to the physician, robust device performance validation, ease of use for the patient, reliability of connectivity, safe and secure data transmission, and economic feasibility. Ophthalmic diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, are ideal candidates for home monitoring practice integration. Established home monitoring technology is already facilitating early detection and improved visual outcomes for patients with age-related macular degeneration. Future innovation currently underway or on the horizon will continue to evolve and expand the footprint of telemedicine within ophthalmology.

CONCLUSION: Home monitoring has the potential to enhance the patient-physician relationship and to positively impact visual acuity outcomes in ophthalmic diseases. Advances in technology, demographic shifts, market changes, and patient demand for personalized medicine will require physicians to embrace technology in new and diverse ways, perhaps facilitating widespread adoption of home monitoring technology platforms.

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