

Teledermatology: a simple tool to provide specialized care to the population in small or isolated cities. The experience of a telehealth service in Brazil

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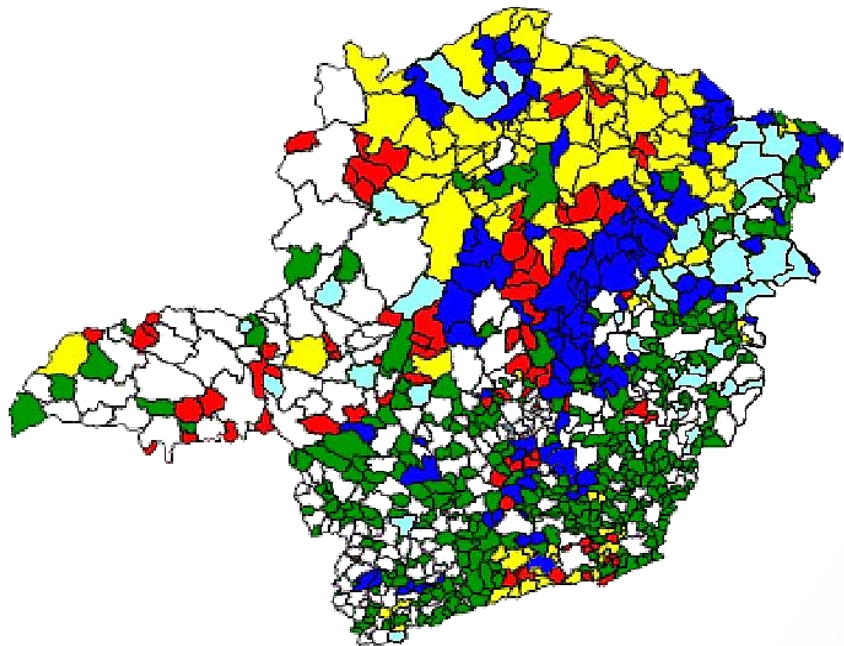
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- Dermatology is strongly linked to the visual component
- **Tele dermatology:**
 - Provides specialized care to the population in small or isolated cities
 - Reduces unnecessary referrals
 - Improves the waiting time for specialist consultations



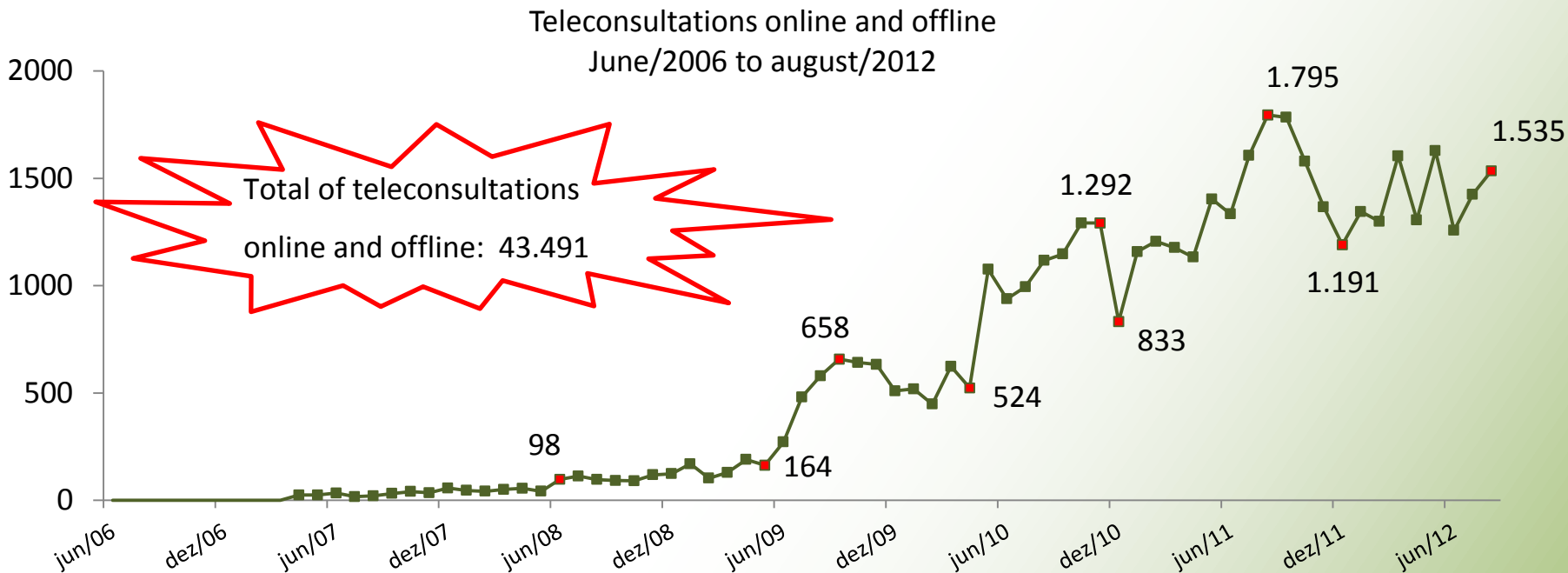
- Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais
- **Minas Gerais:**
 - ✓ 4th state of Brazil in territorial extension
 - ✓ 853 cities
 - ✓ Concentration of specialists in large centers
 - ✓ Difficulty of fixing the professional in remote areas

Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais



Year	Phase	# Municipalities
2005/2006	I	82
2006/2007	II	100
2008/2009	III	98
2009/2010	IV	328
2011	V	51
Total		659

Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais



Objective

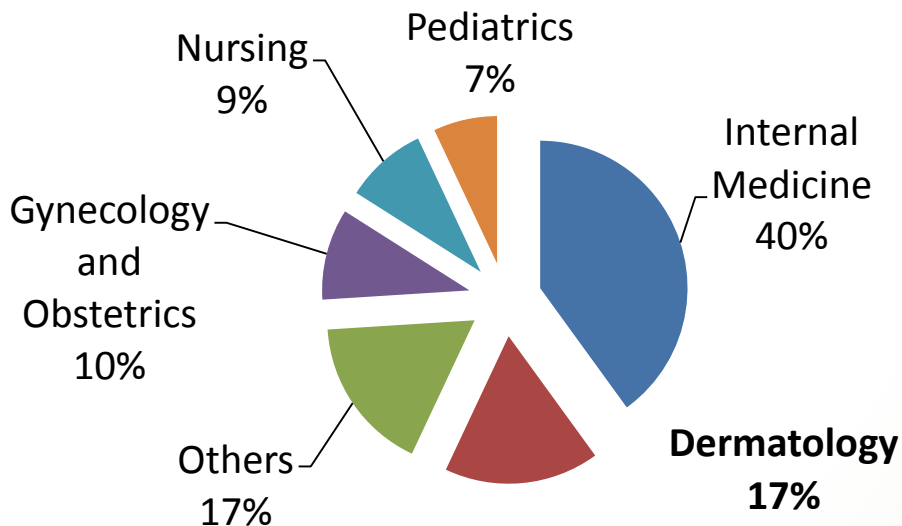
To report the clinical experience of teledermatology in Minas Gerais, Brazil

Methods

All teleconsultations performed by the Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais from January 2010 to May 2010 were assessed.

Cities	Teleconsultations	Population	Distance from capital (Km)	HDI
Berizal	48 (11.6%)	4,370	760	0.599
Chapada Gaúcha	16 (3.9%)	10,805	730	0.683
Capelinha	11 (2.7%)	34,803	427	0.673
Passabém	11 (2.7%)	1,766	136	0.694
Salto da Divisa	11 (2.7%)	6,859	827	0.642

413 dermatological consultations
from a total of 2409 teleconsultations

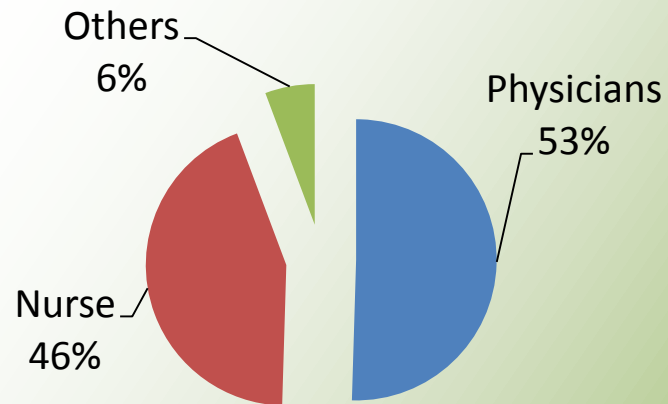
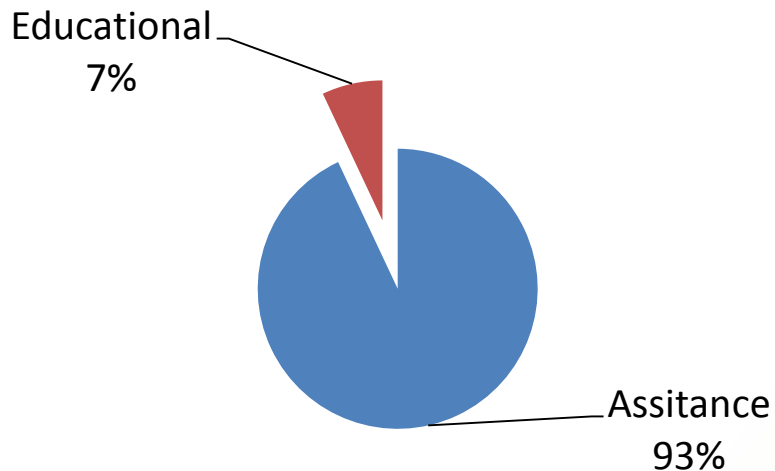


Type of Questions	%
Pharmacological treatment	68
Etiology	60
General medical advice	17
Non-pharmacological therapy	14
Propedeutics	13

Results

Clinical questions related to assistance of particular patients vs educational character

Healthcare professionals who requested the teleconsultations



Management of skin diseases by non-specialists:

- delayed diagnosis
- inappropriate therapy
- increased morbidity
- increased health costs

The large number of teleconsultations reveals a weakness in dermatology teaching during medical course

Teledermatology: simple, inexpensive and effective tool to promote specialized care

Teledermatology :

- improve the quality of healthcare
- promotes continued professional education

Teleconsultations analysis:

- identification of real doubts of primary care professionals
- discussion of strategies to improve teaching in universities