Background

- Telemedicine has had a slow integration into surgical subspecialties like urology.
- Little data exists on telemedicine’s effect on urologic patient-provider rapport nor long term clinical outcomes.
- Pediatric urologists account for only 8.3% of all practicing urologists.
- Understanding feasibility and barriers specific to pediatric urology is needed especially given the recent COVID-19 pandemic.
- The purpose of this study was to assess the feasibility and parent-reported experience with telemedicine visits in a tertiary pediatric urology practice.

Methods

-Parents/guardians of pediatric urology patients who were seen via telemedicine between March 12th - October 30th, 2020, at Children’s Hospital Colorado main campus and two satellite campus were contacted within 1 week of their child’s telehealth visit and invited to take a brief telephone survey.

- A total of 4 yes/no questions were asked. Additionally, an open-ended question was asked to explore domains of the drawbacks and benefits to telemedicine in pediatric urology.
- Respondent/patient and visit characteristics - were analyzed descriptively for differences in response to the satisfaction questions.
- Open-ended questions were analyzed using a team-based content analysis approach.

Results

Table 2. Survey response to questions 1-4 broken down by patient characteristic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>All Total</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Miss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>98.3%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Diagnosis categories and their frequency. For each patient, visit diagnosis was sorted into one of 14 broad urologic diagnosis categories.

Table 4. Open ended responses categorized into one of five themes.

Conclusions

- Overall, parents reported telemedicine to be an acceptable alternative to in-person visits and demonstrated a willingness to continue to use it in the future.
- Parents noted that pediatric urology offers unique challenges due to its personal and sensitive treatment, including the need to evaluate the genitalia.
- As the role of telemedicine continues to expand, consideration of these challenges is needed to ensure that pediatric urology patients and their parents are comfortable with this approach.