

# Urologic Telehealth: Substitution or Expansion?

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## Introduction

### What is a video visit?

Live simultaneous audio and visual interactions between a provider and a patient conducted via videoconferencing platforms

It is unknown whether these visits serve as substitutes for clinic visits or if they would increase healthcare utilization by being used in addition to in-person encounters.

## Methods

**Study Population:** July 2016 to February 2020



600 scheduled video visit appointments

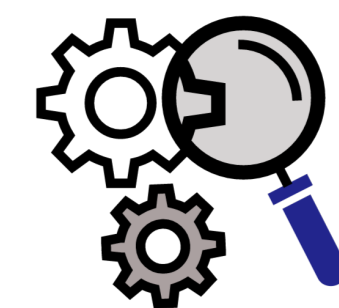


Stratified, random sample of 600 scheduled clinic appointments



Established patients, scheduled for 15-minute visits with 13 urology providers

### Outcomes interest



Difference in patient characteristics

Diagnostic groups across visit types

30-day revisit rates including clinic, ED, inpatient.

### Data Analysis

Chi-Squared ( $\chi^2$ ) test or Wilcoxon rank test

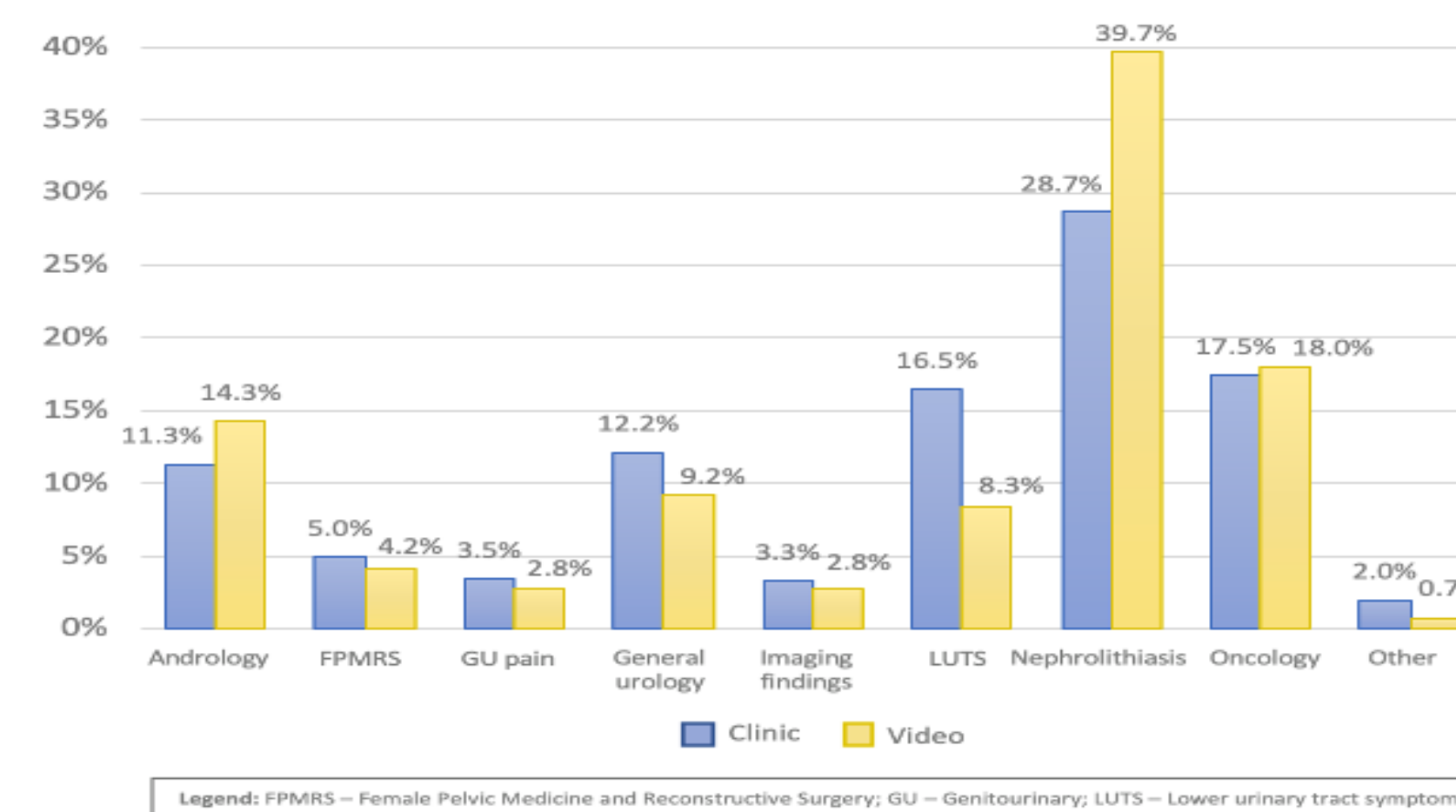
Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel (CMH) test

## Results

### Characteristics of video and clinic visits

	Video Visit		Clinic Visit		p value Wilcoxon test
	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	
Age, years	51	36-62	61	45-71	<0.0001
Distance, miles (max)	82 (1548)	36-228	68 (3686)	34-128	<0.0001
Median Income	\$53,237	\$39,000-\$68,403	\$54,722	\$37,037-\$63,876	0.53
	n (%)		n (%)		p value ( $\chi^2$ )
Gender					0.0013
Woman	218 (36%)		166 (28%)		
Man	382 (64%)		434 (72%)		
Insurance					<0.0001
Commercial	487, 81.2%		328, 54.7%		
Medicare	81, 13.5%		166, 27.7%		
Medicare Advantage	14, 2.3%		64, 10.7%		
Medicaid	10, 1.7%		37, 6.2%		
Self-pay	7, 1.2%		0, 0%		
Military	1, 0.2%		5, 0.8%		
	n (%)		n (%)		p value (CMH)
Post-op visits	114 (19%)		113 (18.8%)		0.94

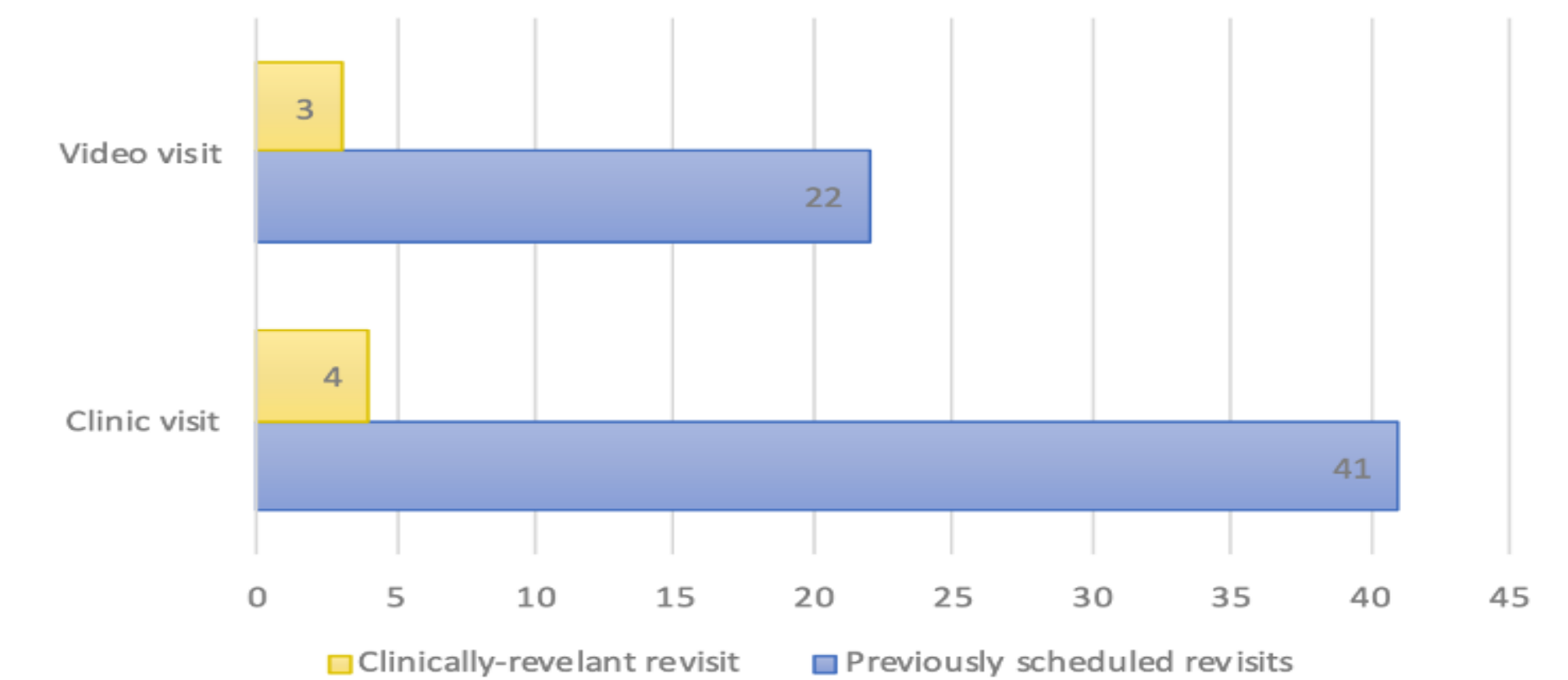
### Proportion of video and clinic visits by diagnostic group



Legend: FPMRS – Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery; GU – Genitourinary; LUTS – Lower urinary tract symptoms

## Results

### Number of revisits within 30-day of initial encounter



## Discussion

Patients using video visits tended to be younger, would have traveled further for a clinic appointment, and were more likely to be female

Providers conducted and completed video visits across a broad range of urologic conditions and there was no difference in the number of post-operative visits across groups.

While the 30-day revisit rate was higher after clinic visits, there was no difference in the rate of clinically relevant revisits.

## Conclusion

**In the short-term, video visits serve as substitutes for clinic visits for a broad range of urologic conditions**