



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF
DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY

Information Leaflet for Patients

TELEDERMATOLOGY

The aim of this leaflet

This leaflet is designed to help you understand more about tele dermatology (a type of telemedicine). It tells you what this type of communication is, what types of skin diseases can be diagnosed using it, and the requirements for adequate pictures.

What is telemedicine?

Telemedicine is the use of exchanging medical information at a distance.

What is teledermatology?

Teledermatology is one of the most common applications of telemedicine and e-health. In teledermatology, telecommunications technologies are used to exchange medical information concerning dermatologic conditions at a distance using visual and data communication.

Who benefits most from teledermatology?

Individuals who would benefit most from teledermatology include those who:

- Live in remote areas, where access to dermatology care is not easy
- Suffer from an acute onset of skin problems and who search for quick consultation and advice
- Suffer from rare skin diseases and seek the opinion of international “experts” in the field
- Are “shy,” suffering from genital diseases and who would like to remain anonymous.

Which kind of skin diseases can be diagnosed using teledermatology?

- Inflammatory skin conditions
- Rash and skin eruptions
- Certain hair and nail diseases.

Which kind of skin diseases can only be partially interpreted using teledermatology?

- Skin tumours in general, as you will probably need a “face to face” visit with additional diagnostic tools (such as *dermoscopy* and *reflectance confocal microscopy*)
- Some infectious diseases, as you may need additional diagnostic exams.

What are the minimum requirements for a clinical image to be correctly interpreted?

- “On focus” picture
- Pictures that are representative of the extent of the disease
- At least two pictures (close-up and overview)
- Correct lighting.

What are examples of good and bad images?

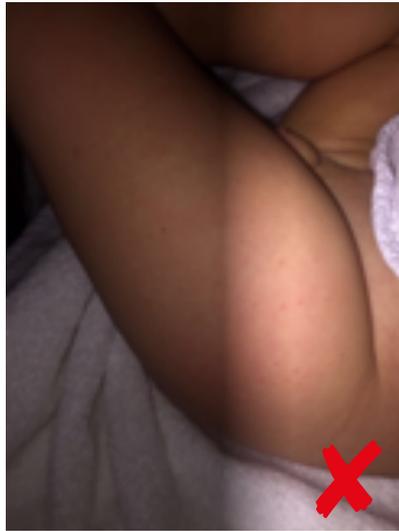


Fig. A: Incorrect lighting

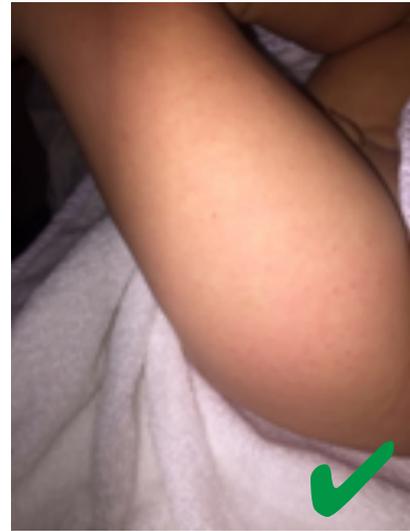


Fig. B: Same image with good lighting



Fig. C: Incorrect lighting, lesions not clearly visible



Fig. D: Correct image