

Abstract

TME16/459: S.I.TE. Project: Spinal injury and Telemedicine

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Abstract

Introduction: A meeting held in Augusta, in November '98, proposed the launch of a Telemedicine application in order to improve spinal trauma rehabilitation protocols. This medical area, as many others, is still populated by diverse ideas and doubts on the possible protocol of intervention: a common protocol tying together surgical, rehabilitation, orthopaedic and neurological medicine can lead to significant results.

Methods: Scope of this project, is to realise a network (virtual-line) using Internet, connecting Italian and German spinal centres interested on this protocol, and to allow for the exchange of data, clinical reports, images, with different levels of interaction:

1. Store and forward
 - E. mail;
 - Attached documents;
 - News group
2. Real time
 - Videoconferencing system and electronic board.

External users may have restricted access to specific information, although we can see the results of the work in a web site always kept updated

Results: The specification phase is now complete and at present the work is progressing towards the realisation phase.

Discussion: This application is very interesting from different points of view:

1. It is a new Telemedicine application.
2. It uses Internet, hence transportation cost are marginal and its reliance on de facto standard browser eases further applications development and portability.
3. It fosters a new approach to co-operative research in medicine.

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KEYWORDS

Internet; Spinal Cord Injury; Telemedicine

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