



# AB187. SOH22ABS036. The Outreach Virtual Fracture Clinic—a pilot report of the initial nine months

Conor Medlar<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Hughes<sup>1</sup>, Marian Hayden<sup>2</sup>, Eimear Lavelle<sup>3</sup>, Gabrielle Dunne<sup>3</sup>, Karina Batt<sup>4</sup>, Maria Gyves<sup>5</sup>, Jan Hailey Reyes<sup>3</sup>, Brendan O'Daly<sup>1</sup>, John Quinlan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>2</sup>Orthopaedic Outpatient Department, Naas General Hospital, Kildare, Ireland; <sup>3</sup>Emergency Department, Naas General Hospital, Kildare, Ireland; <sup>4</sup>Department of Physiotherapy, Naas General Hospital, Naas, Kildare, Ireland; <sup>5</sup>Orthopaedic Outpatient Department, Naas General Hospital, Kildare, Ireland

**Background:** The virtual fracture clinic (VFC) enables the safe, cost-effective delivery of high-quality patient-centred fracture care, whilst reducing hospital footfall. Within our institution, an Outreach VFC was launched, accepting a pre-defined range of trauma referrals from the outreach centre's emergency department (ED). We aimed to outline the workings of this Outreach VFC following its establishment.

**Methods:** The initial nine months' worth of cases referred to the Outreach VFC were assessed. The injury pattern, time to review, treatment plan and discharge destination of each referred patient was examined.

**Results:** A total of 822 patients were referred to the Outreach VFC during its initial nine months in operation. Owing to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related alterations in the patient pathway, 58.1% of patients were referred on to fracture clinic/ED, with 34.4% of patients being referred for physiotherapy input. A total of 44.9% of patients were reviewed at the Outreach VFC within 72 hours of ED presentation, with 88.6% of patients reviewed within 7 days. The Outreach VFC pilot initiative

saved the Dublin Midlands Hospitals Group approximately €83,022 over nine months.

**Conclusions:** The Outreach VFC model represents a novel approach to trauma care delivery with advantages for patient and hospital alike. Rural communities serve to benefit from its future implementation and the remote management of orthopaedic trauma. The Outreach VFC model provides a means of delivering safe and timely orthopaedic care whilst maintaining high levels of patient satisfaction.

**Keywords:** Virtual fracture clinic (VFC); outreach; remote; telemedicine; healthcare value

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## Footnote

*Conflicts of Interest:* The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

*Ethical Statement:* The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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