

Abstract

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

S Boccaccio; P Marano; R Saracco; N Dal Degan

Istituto Ortopedico Villa Salus Strada Provinciale Bruccoli Augusta, Augusta, Italy

## 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.

(*J Med Internet Res* 1999;1(suppl1):e123) doi: [10.2196/jmir.1.suppl1.e123](https://doi.org/10.2196/jmir.1.suppl1.e123)

## KEYWORDS

Internet; Spinal Cord Injury; Telemedicine

###Reviewer names will be inserted here### published 19.09.99.

Please cite as:

Boccaccio S, Marano P, Saracco R, Dal Degan N

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*J Med Internet Res* 1999;1(suppl1):e123

URL: <http://www.jmir.org/1999/suppl1/e123/>

doi: [10.2196/jmir.1.suppl1.e123](https://doi.org/10.2196/jmir.1.suppl1.e123)

PMID:

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