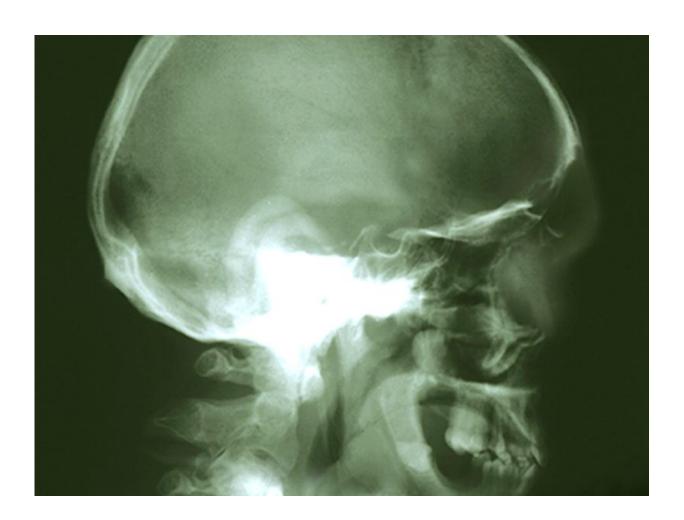


Speech pathology telepractice beneficial in head, neck cancer

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(HealthDay)—For patients with head and neck cancer, a multisite speech



pathology telepractice service is associated with higher service efficiency and treatment satisfaction compared with standard care, according to a study published online Feb. 22 in *Head & Neck*.

Clare L. Burns, Ph.D., from Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Australia, and colleagues conducted a multicenter controlled trial within a large public cancer service. Referrals from speech pathologists at three regional sites were managed by a specialist clinician from a cancer center via standard care, which comprised phone, e-mail support, and appointments at the cancer center, or via a newly established telepractice service, which included online consultation between the cancer center and the regional sites. Data were included for 82 referrals that were managed: 39 for standard care and 43 for telepractice care.

The researchers found that service efficiency favored the telepractice model, with a significant decrease in the number and duration of contact events needed for referral management (P = 0.004 and P = 0.024, respectively). The telepractice service also had higher consumer and clinician <u>satisfaction</u>.

"A speech pathology telepractice service benefits both the patient and health provider through higher service efficiency and treatment satisfaction," the authors write.

More information: Abstract

Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)

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