

# Teledentistry utilization as examination method during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from randomized controlled trial

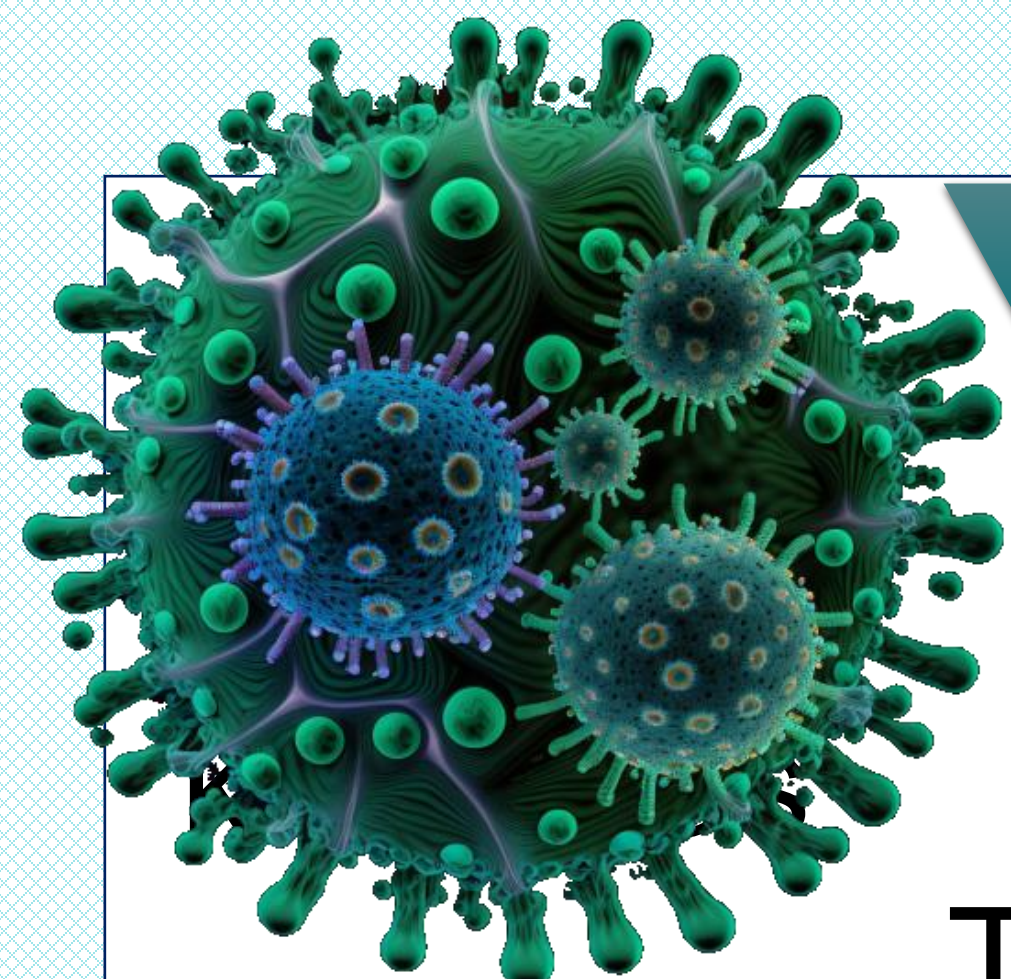
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## Introduction

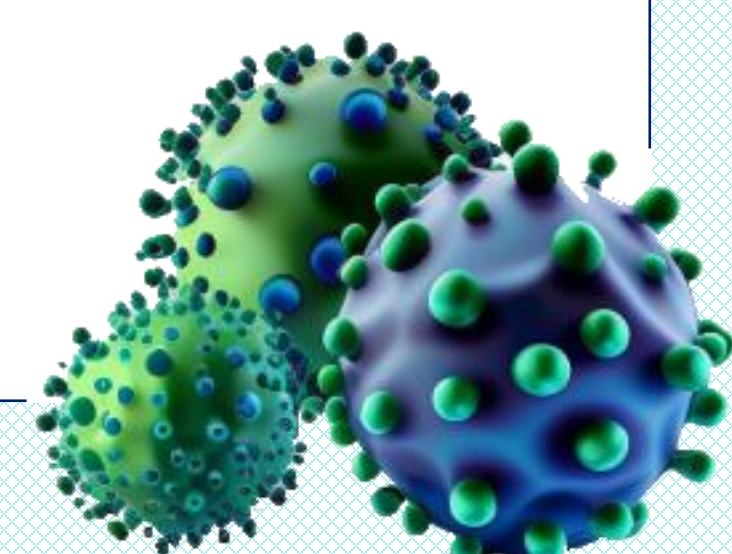
The COVID-19 pandemic struck the entire globe. Teledentistry emerged as an important solution for dental care, however, few studies evaluated the usefulness of teledentistry using randomized control trial (RCT). Those RCTs found teledentistry to be useful for identifying caries in preschool-aged children, finding an affected third molar, and assessing orthodontic and referred cases. None of these investigations, however, included patients who had permanent teeth or when patient take intraoral photographs, as was the case during the epidemic.

## Methods

A single-blind randomized controlled was used in this study, with 70 participants went into randomization yielding into study and control groups. Both groups had previous examination, as a baseline examination. Then, the study group was examined via teledentistry examination, and the findings were compared with the baseline clinical examinations. The control group was waiting. After the intervention, participants at both groups completed the study survey.

## Conclusion

Teledentistry may be utilized for public dental exams during pandemics as It's moderately reliable. Future recommendations are required to enhance tele-dentistry assessment and photo accuracy.

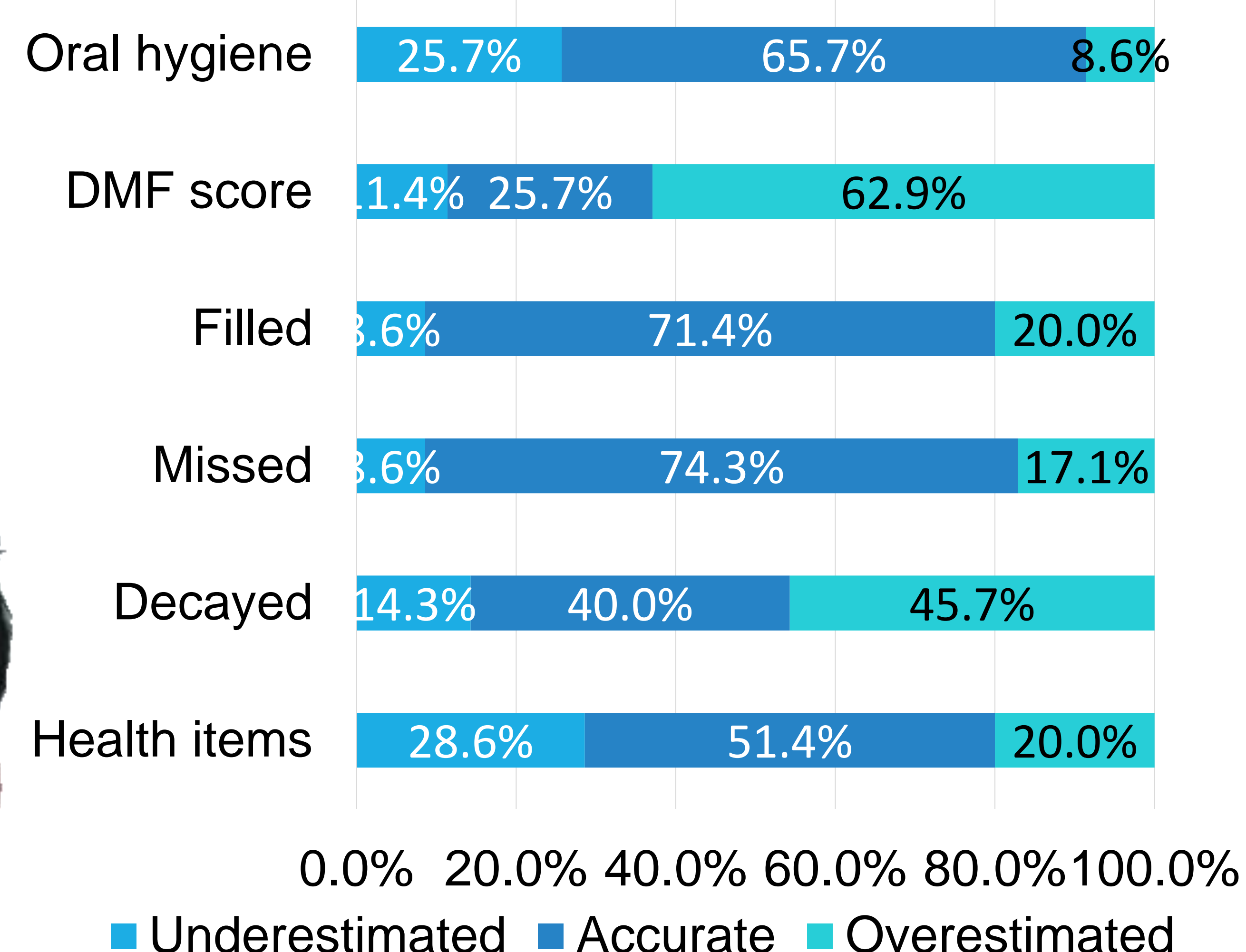


## Aim

The aim of this study was to assess teledentistry utilization as examination method during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Results

The total score for missing, decayed and filled teeth (DMF) score was significantly higher ( $p=0.007$ ) in the teledentistry examination than reported in the baseline.



Most participants reported good experience in teledentistry, but 54.3% had problems in taking dental photographs.

Statement	Yes %
Dentist understood me.	97.10%
I got a benefit from using teledentistry.	94.30%
I felt secure sending my information and photo.	94.30%
I got a good diagnosis.	94.30%
Ease of communicate.	91.40%
I trust teledentistry to provide dental service.	88.60%
I will use teledentistry in the future.	88.60%
Teledentistry is more comfortable than dental visit.	80.00%
I had problems taking photographs.	54.30%
I had problems with my internet.	48.60%