
EDITORIAL

The ensuing pandemic has influenced every facet of our lives and more particularly how we practice medicine. This has been a health disaster of a magnitude that even senior physicians have never encountered before. Many patients who would previously only seek medical care at leading hospitals now refuse to come to these very same hospitals to have their health problems attended to. This has led to a new dimension of medical consultation and that is the world of telemedicine. Previously, telemedicine was used to communicate with remote places where access to medical facilities was limited and restricted. This has its own pitfalls especially when used in certain contexts like, obtaining a biopsy, removal of a foreign body etc, where actual physical attendance was required in order to bring about a diagnosis or provide relief from certain problems.

Most people have taken heart from the news that a vaccine is on the way. It must be remembered that the dates of availability of the vaccine keeps on shifting and the percentage of protection provided seems to vary. It is therefore prudent for the public at large, including health care professionals to remember that we cannot lower our guard. Covid 19 vaccines offer hope of protection. This still does not mean that we should forget the lessons of social distancing, wearing of masks, good hand hygiene and all the other important lessons learned at considerable expense.

Since this is a health care crisis, hospitals are at the very core at which the disease is being treated and health care professionals are often the most vulnerable. Care has been taken to prevent the disease from disseminating from hospitals. Carelessly run health institutions can themselves be responsible for the spread of this virus. It is to their immense credit that this has not happened and speaks eloquently about the professionalism demonstrated by the hospitals dedicated to dealing with these issues. Despite dwindling financial reserves they have maintained a very high standard of care.

Heroism and unselfishness demonstrated by all health care workers has been incredible and amazing.

We are inspired by our colleagues and we pray not only for our patients but also our colleagues to overcome this virus and that we never face such a crisis of such a magnitude ever again.

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