

Video consultations in palliative care: A systematic integrative review

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BACKGROUND

Access to palliative care remains inadequate worldwide. Video consultations are a promising approach to address challenges in palliative care provision. The technology enables real-time audio/visual interactions between patients, relatives and palliative care professionals at a distance. However, no attempts have been made to review the evidence solely on video consultations in palliative care.

AIMS

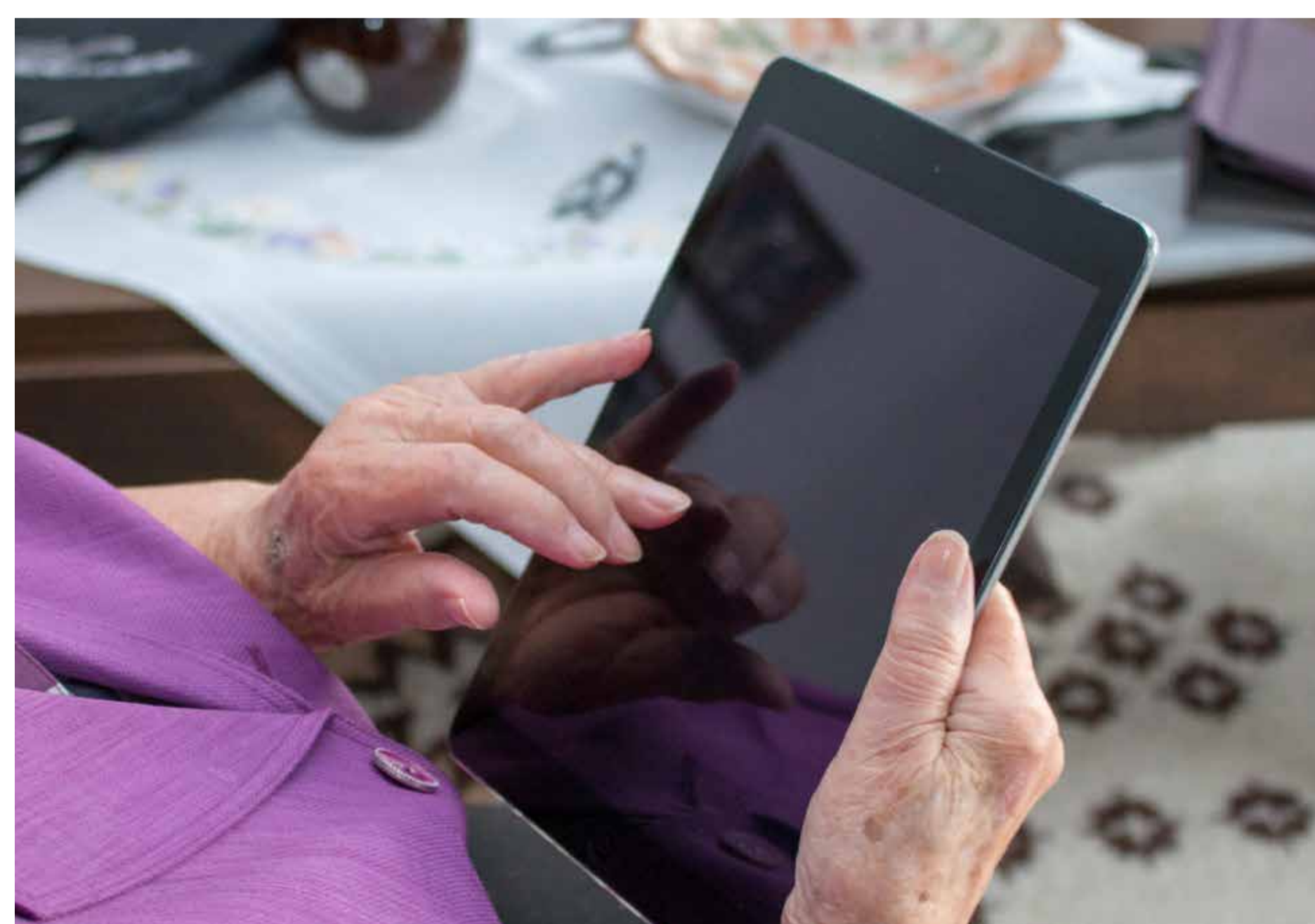
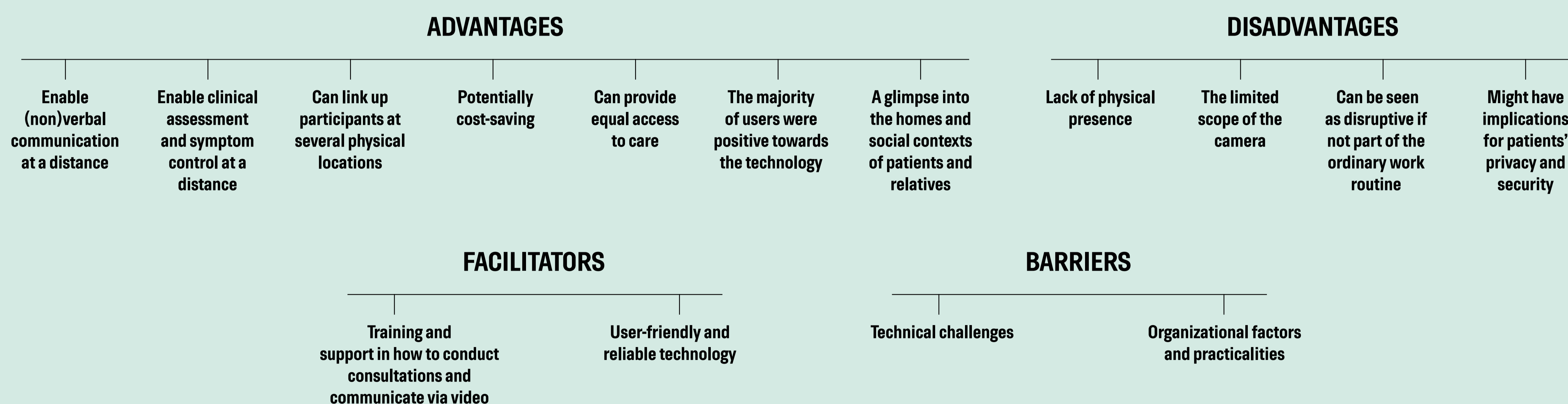
To gain insight into: 1) the advantages and disadvantages; 2) facilitators and barriers, when using video consultations in general, and specialist palliative care from the perspective of patients and relatives, healthcare professionals, and society.

METHODS

The review followed the PRISMA 2009 guidelines¹ and methodology by Whittmore & Knafel, 2005². A systematic search was carried out in Pubmed, Embase, CINAHL and Psycinfo, using terms related to 'video consultations' AND 'palliative care', published from 2005–2018. Titles and abstracts were screened followed by full article screening. Additionally, reference lists were hand searched. Included were primary studies involving video consultations between patients and/or relatives of all ages, and professionals in palliative care. The studies' quality was assessed in accordance with Hawker et al., 2002³.

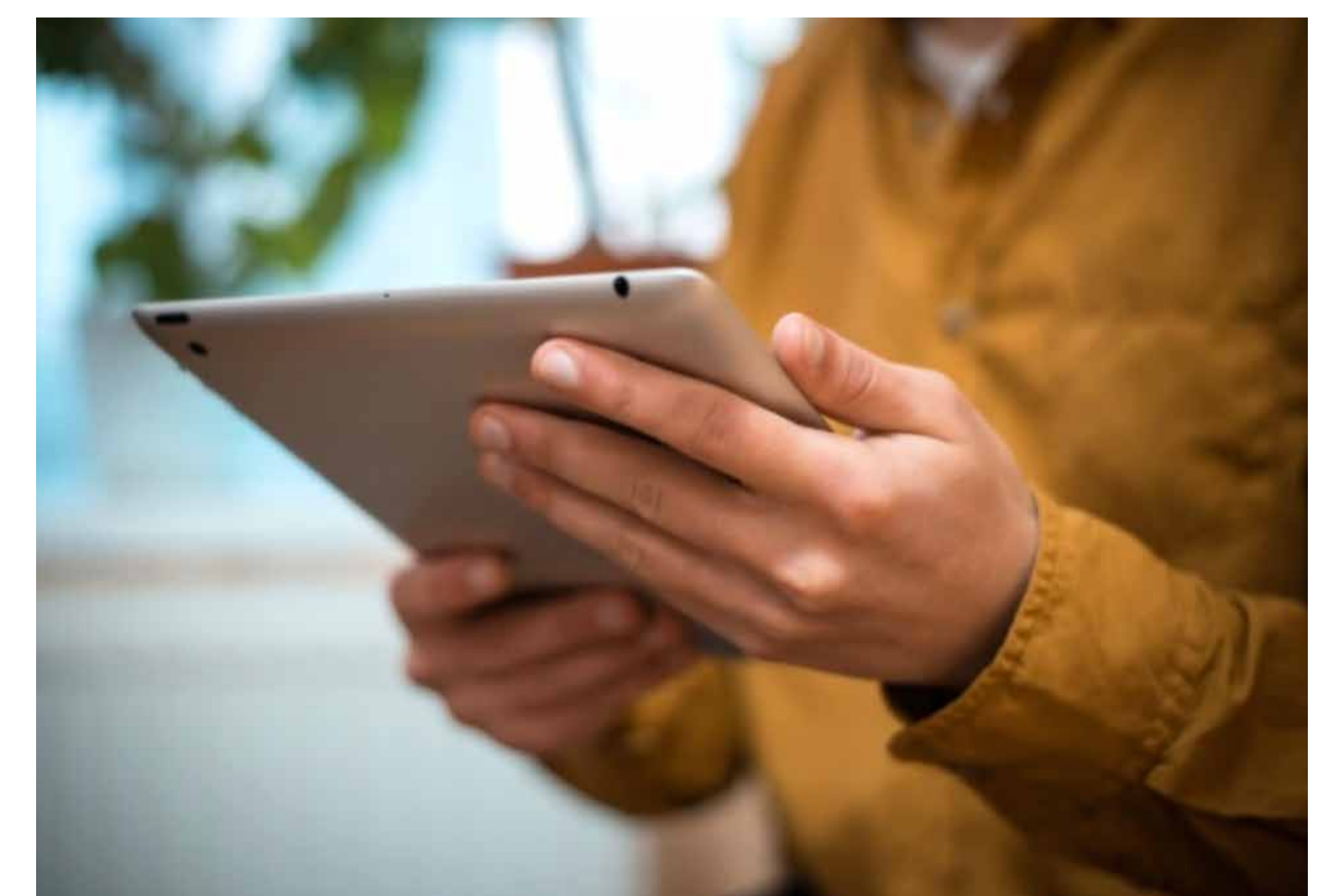
RESULTS

The search resulted in 813 articles. 39 articles met the inclusion criteria: mixed methods (n=14), qualitative (n=10), quantitative (n=10) and case studies (n=5). The quality of the articles ranged from 20-36 points, corresponding to medium or high on the quality scale (10-40 points). The studies mainly originated from high income countries. Overall, the evidence showed that video consultations have advantages, disadvantages as well as facilitators and barriers:



CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The use of video consultations in palliative care is feasible. Evidence is however limited, and mainly deals with specialist palliative care and cancer patients. Future research should focus on general palliative care, patients with a non-cancer diagnosis and low and middle income countries.



References

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The authors have no conflicts of interests.

