Summaries

Telemedicine and Telematics in the Next Health Care System
(*Mauro Moruzzi*)

In his analysis on e-Care, Moruzzi proposes to consider Telemedicine as a part of a technical-social and a technical-organizational system for *online* welfare and society. Characterized by continued assistance (CA), the e-Care "philosophy" recognizes that there is a fundamental technical-organizational component in reorganizing health care systems and public health care structures. Thus, Telemedicine has a strategic impact on the new phase of *Regional Health Care Service*, institutionally and politically detailed in Title V of the Italian Constitution, amended in 2001.

Technology Readiness and Users' Satisfaction for Telemedicine Services
(*Andrea Paltrinieri*)

The slow diffusion of telemedicine services is sometime attributed to the users' resistance to make use of those services. A review of the literature show, on the contrary, that users' satisfaction for telemedicine services do not differ in a significant way from users' satisfaction for traditionally delivered health services. Furthermore, surveys show that a substantial minority of consumers are favourable towards the utilization of the information and communication technology for the access to medical services from remote sites. The evidence nowadays available supports the thesis that the delay in the adoption of telemedicine services is not due to the distrust of potential consumers.

Telemedicine and Innovations in the Health Care System
(*Giuseppina Cersosimo*)

Cersosimo analizes telemedicine's developement and its consequences in medical practice along three dimensions: patient/physician relationship; human body representations and perceptions of illness.
Telemedicine (and its computerization) is considered the answer to the crisis of traditional medicine even if such a "new order" has to face and to contrast the digital divide.

The Integration of Telemedicine in the Information Systems and Services of the Health Care Organizations
(*Donatella Nardelli, Giovanni Rinaldi* e *Giuseppe Sberlati*)

In the article, two geriatrics-related tele-monitoring projects are presented, both of which aim at providing assistance and care to meet the needs of home care patients by bringing monitoring and control equipment and medical records into the patient's home and into health care structures. In these well thought-out projects, telemedicine, tele-ER, and tele-monitoring equipment play a fundamental role but their isolated use (i.e. without comprehensive treatments and treatment plans), could compromise the complex assistance service's results; in other words, monitoring technology must be constructively integrated with a complex system that includes: booking technology, medical/care records computerized management that is accessible (doctors, nurses, social assistants, volunteers, ...), management, and monitoring technology for ADI (Integrated Home Care), intelligent systems that can predict, by collecting information, a patient's possible lose of functionality over time.