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Pediatric Dermatology eConsult Program with Dermoscopy: Sub Analysis of Infantile Hemangiomas

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Introduction

There is a national shortage of dermatologists, and no pediatric dermatologists in Maine. To improve timely access to specialty care, a store-and-forward electronic consultation (eConsult) platform with dermoscopy was developed. The platform connects primary care providers (PCPs) with dermatologists and facilitates rapid triage of skin growths and rashes. While originally designed to aid with melanoma detection, the platform was heavily utilized for pediatric patients and particularly useful for infants with infantile hemangioma (IH) in whom there is a narrow window of opportunity for initiating treatment.

Here we present an analysis of pediatric dermatology eConsults with emphasis on dermoscopy utilization and the impact on eConsult on infantile hemangiomas (IH) management.

Methodology

Retrospective chart review of 153 pediatric eConsults from April 2020 to April 2021.

Measurable Outcomes:

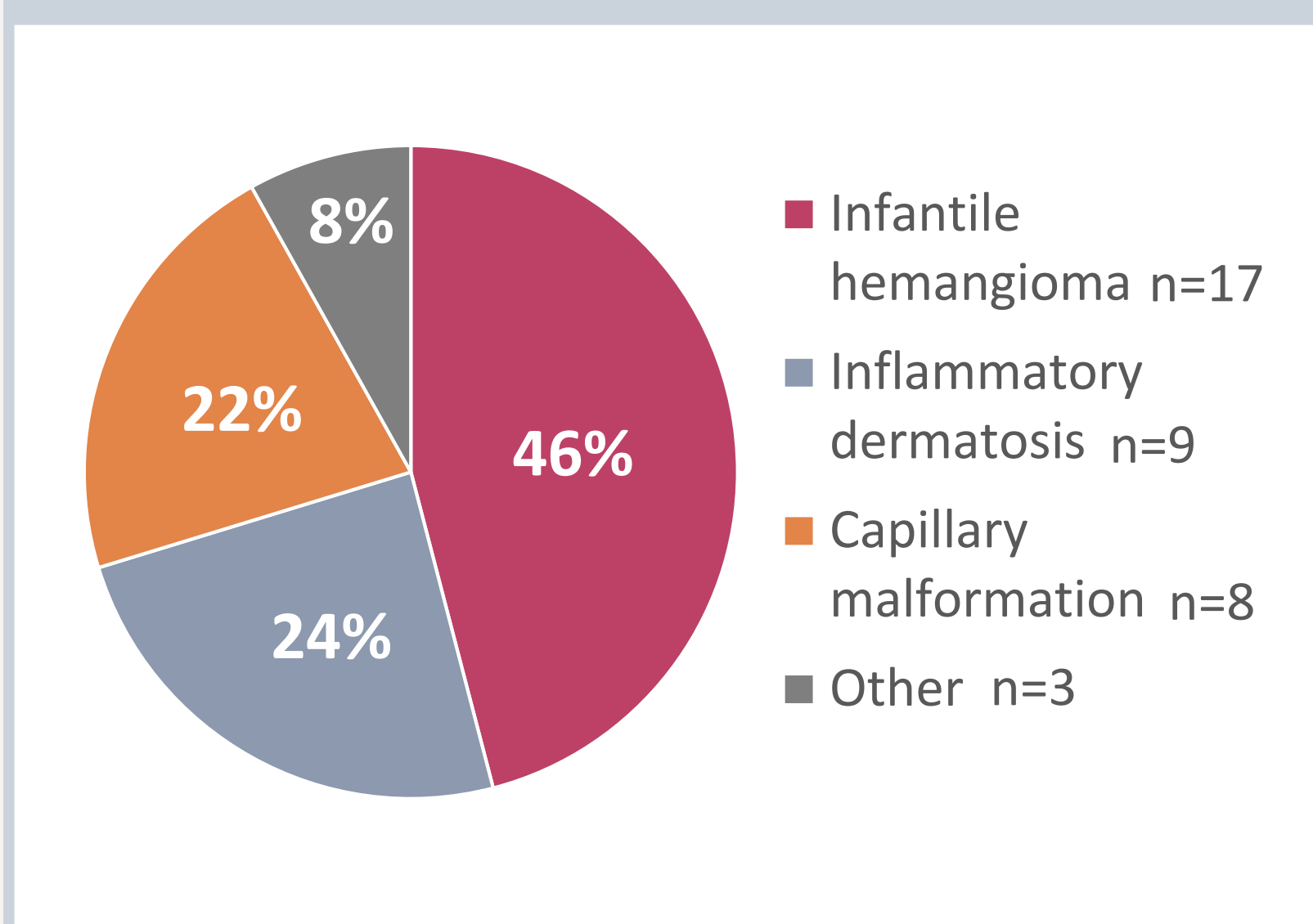
- Time to eConsult completion
- Wait time for face-to-face (FTF) visit when needed
- Diagnoses in infants, with focus on vascular and melanocytic growths
- Dermoscopy utilization

Results

How did eConsult Impact Access?

- Over 95% of e-Consults were completed within 72 hours, with a median response time of 11 hours (IQR 2.6 – 28). For IH patients, the average response time was 4.9 hours.
- 36% of pediatric eConsult patients needed a subsequent FTF visit
- When FTF visit was indicated, eConsult decreased the wait-time from 120 to 23 days and to 9 days for IH patients

Figure 1. eConsult was heavily utilized for infants especially with vascular growths

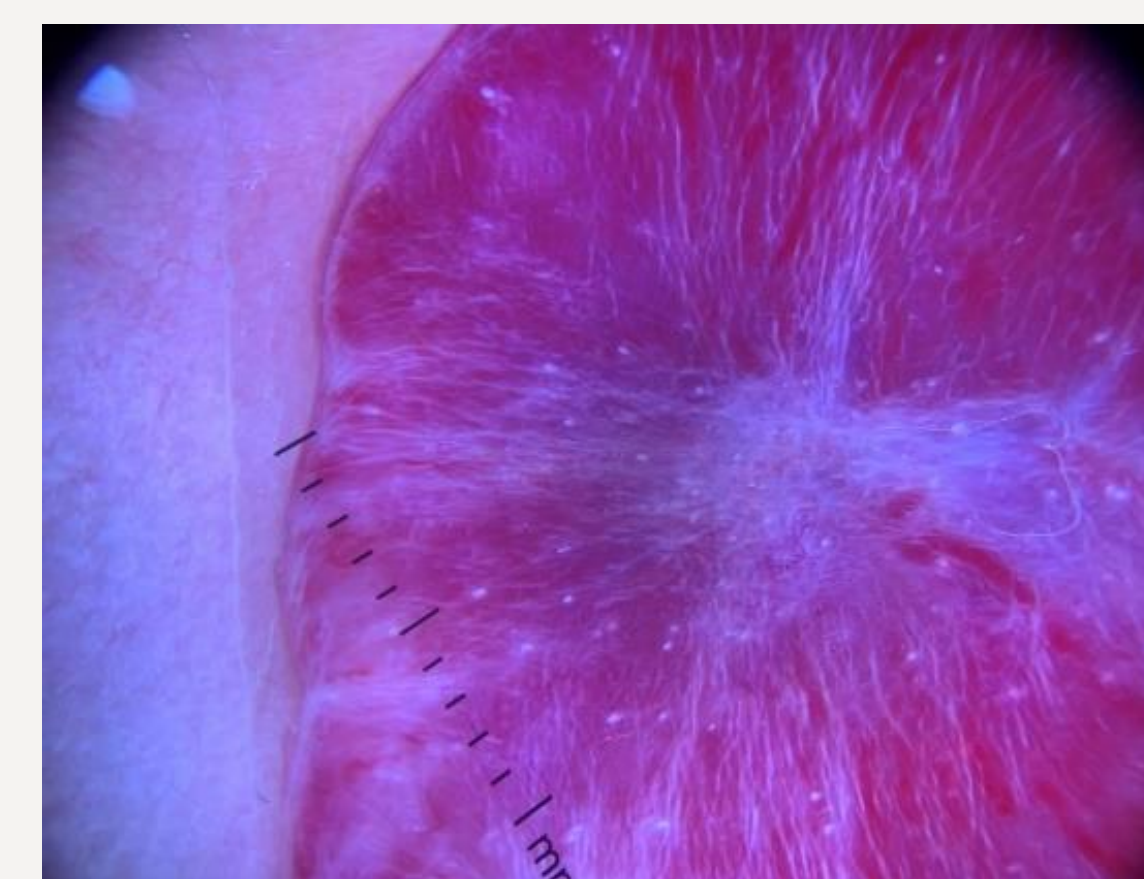


When was Dermoscopy Most Helpful?

- In the evaluation of melanocytic nevi (Case 1)
- Differentiating IH from capillary malformation & identifying high risk IH (Case 2)



Case 1. eConsult of Congenital Melanocytic Nevus
 Dermoscopy reveals a mixed globular and reticular pattern with hypertrichosis.



Case 2. eConsult of IH Dermoscopy reveals central white color associated with impending ulceration.

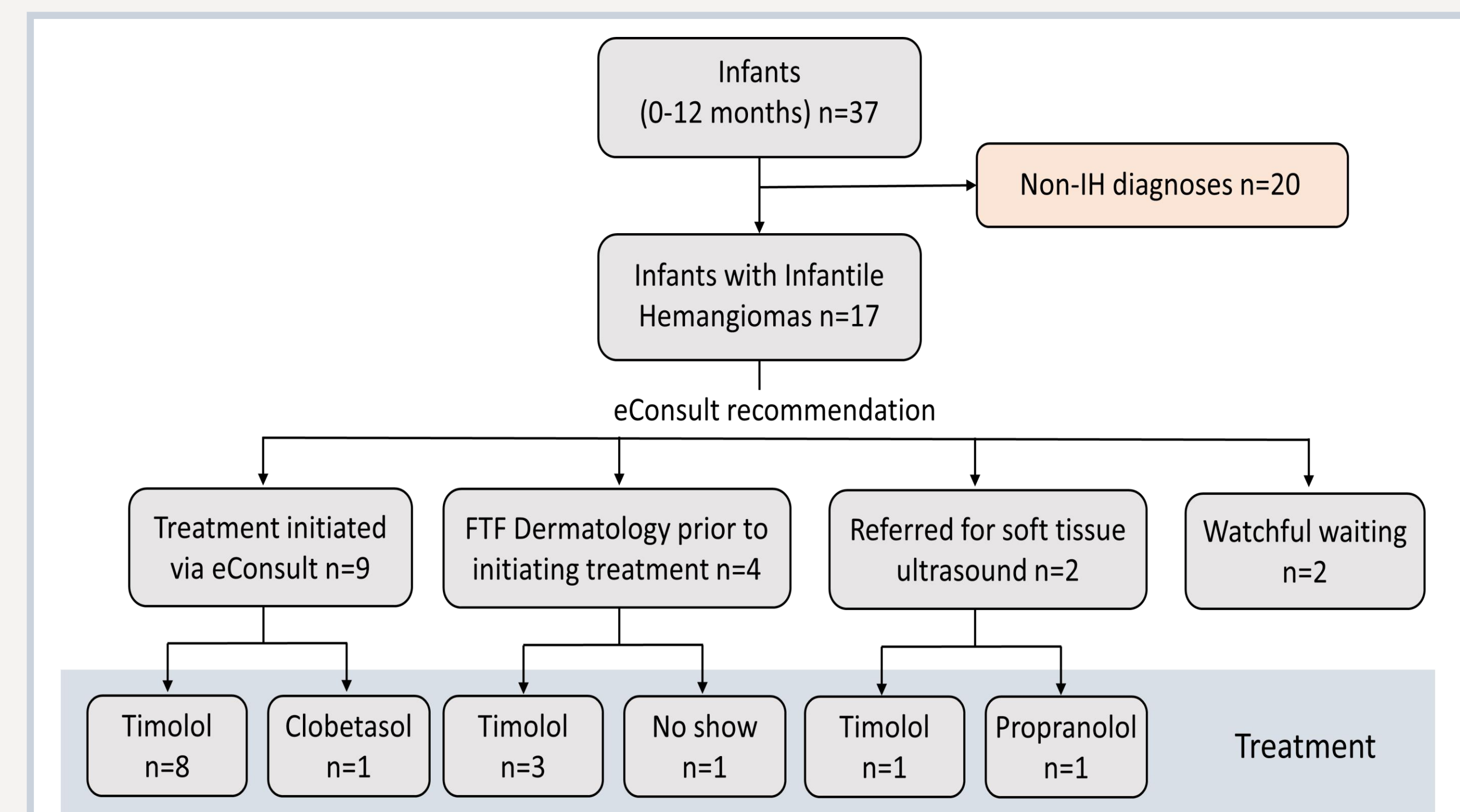


Figure 2. Flow chart of eConsult IH management.

Conclusions & Opportunities

- eConsult can be used to effectively triage pediatric dermatology patients and improves access to specialty care.
- The management of IH via eConsult facilitated prompt evaluation allowing for rapid initiation of treatment (when indicated) within the narrow window of opportunity prior to 12 weeks of age. Clinical and dermoscopic images were helpful for proper diagnosis and management.
- Dedicated dermoscopy training for pediatricians may increase utilization of dermoscopy and improve efficacy of the platform.