

## A descriptive analysis through bibliometrics

Lopes, A. A. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão / Alcoitão School of Health Sciences, Portugal,

### Background

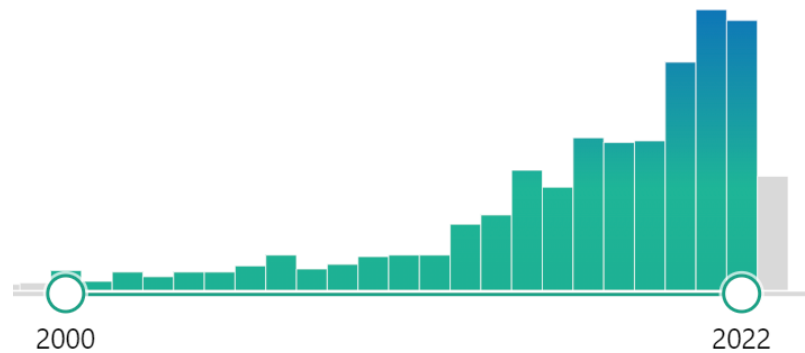
As defined by Kazuko Shem (2022) Telerehabilitation (TR) refers to the delivery of rehabilitation supported via a variety of technologies and encompasses a range of rehabilitation services that include “evaluation, assessment, monitoring, prevention, intervention, supervision, education, consultation, and coaching.” These technologies and services are available to provide care for persons with disabilities who need acute, subacute care, and long-term follow-up. TR is delivered by a broad range of health care professionals, which may include physical therapists.

### Purpose

The usage of technology, in Physiotherapy practice and education, is still growing, with a possible impact also on research. However, the increase of the number of scientific publications makes it difficult to know the scientific structure and development of a specific field. Visualization techniques based on bibliometric data are useful for the understanding of scientific fields.

### Methods

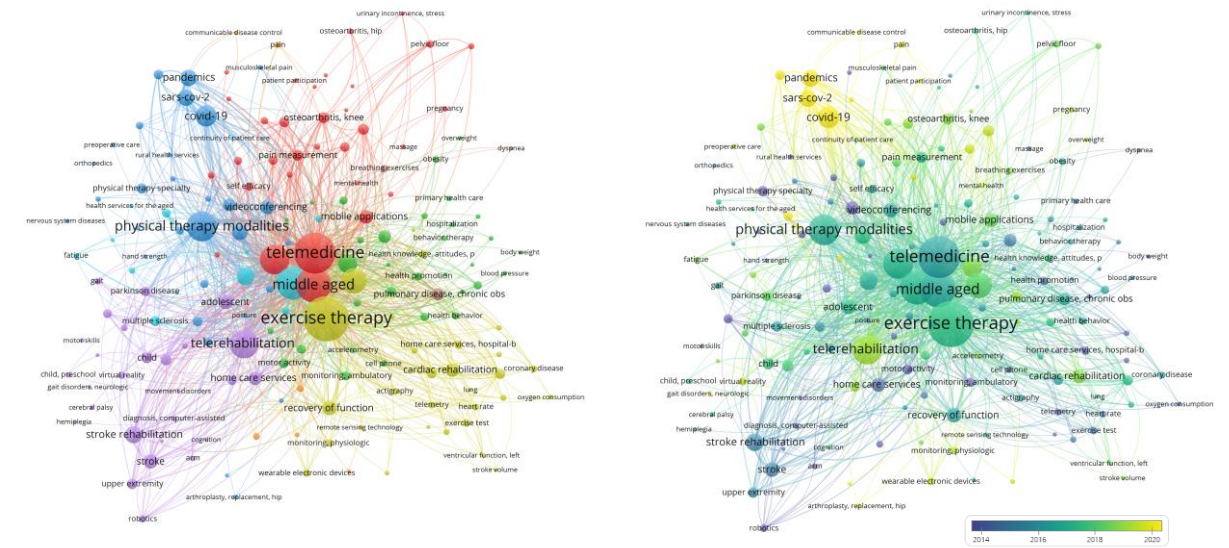
This is a bibliometric, descriptive, and retrospective study. Then author identified publications from Pubmed database from 2000 till 2022 related to the use of Telerehabilitation in physiotherapy practice using this search string ("**Physical Therapy Specialty**"[Mesh] OR "**Physical Therapy Modalities**"[Mesh]) AND (Telerehabilitation OR telehealth OR teletherapy). From the titles and abstracts of these publications, was selected the main terms related to the field, extracted by VOSviewer software, to create a visualization of the most important trends referred in the literature.



Publications identified in Pubmed database from 2000 till 2022

### Results

The author identify 980 eligible references (300 Clinical trials and Randomized Controlled Trial and 61 Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review). Upon analysing the co-occurrence of the Mesh terms associated to Telerehabilitation and Telemedicine, the most common one was usage of this approach to provide care by using exercise therapy in middle-aged patients with a focus on quality of life as a major outcome. It's noticeable also the emergence after 2020 of the use of this strategies during COVID-19 Pandemic.



### Conclusion

In the overall, as showed by the publish research, the interest in this topic as grown exponential, influencing all aspects related to the interaction between health professionals (including physiotherapists), patients and communities.

### Implications

As the global need for rehabilitation continues to grow, many challenges to accessing it remain unaddressed. Telerehabilitation has the potential to address these challenges by using locally available resources. Despite the growing evidence of telerehabilitation applied to the context of intervention (including several steps of the Physiotherapy Process), integration of this emerging technology into the academic curriculum is still slow because of various interrelated human, organizational and technical challenges.

