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Observational Study

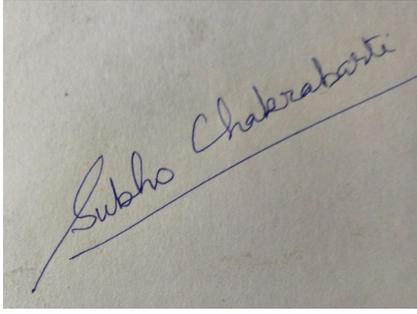
Development of a protocol for videoconferencing-based exposure and response prevention treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder during the Covid-19 pandemic

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INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

Ethical considerations

This observational study was a part of a larger study on home-based TMH services for all patients^[37]. The protocol was approved by the institute's ethics committee. Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, verbal informed consent over the phone was allowed. As explained above, data regarding outcomes were obtained only from patients who had verbally consented to undertake ERP and had actively engaged in the process of treatment. However, patients were not contacted or assessed separately to determine these outcomes. Rather, all data regarding outcomes were extracted from routine medical and treatment records. Patient identities have not been revealed. Therefore, written informed consent from patients was not obtained for information about treatment outcomes. All the methods followed the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki for medical research involving human subjects.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature reads "Subho Chakrabarti" and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

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