



Program

CBC Radio One 97.5FM (CBEW)

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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Highlight

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researcher and general internist at trial general hospital she joins you now on the line. Good morning. Good morning. What exactly was this study looking at how to go about comparing the data thanks Yeah so we looked at over 130 to 1000



patients who visited one of 13 virtual walk-in clinics that were operating in Ontario but in April in December of 2020. And we compared to patients as well as what happened to them in the 30 days after the visit to patients who had any other virtual family medicine encounter during that time. And what we found is that the virtual walk-in clinic patients tended to be overall healthier based on their previous use of health care and how many health conditions they had. But despite that they were actually twice as likely to go to the emergency Department in the following 30 days and they were less likely to have an in-person offices it with a family doctor in the 30 day period as well. It's so interesting as a study compared to forms of virtual medical appointments, one where a patient sees a lock-in doctor and the other with a patient's own doctor. Why do you think appointments connected to a family doctor more effective and led to fewer emergency visits



So we can't know for sure, but we can definitely speculate. We know that for acute health problems like the news new problems that pop up that we people to call a virtual walk-in clinic that many of these possibly most of these need a physical exam or some component of you know seeing the patient person so somebody, for example, has your pain you know we need to look at the year drum to get a sense of whether or not they might need antibiotic if somebody has a phenomenal paying you need to really look at the abdomen feel the abdomen and that will help determine like do they need to CT scan urgently or not and virtual walk-in clinics really don't have an option front in-person assessment kind of by definition and by design. There's no bricks-and-mortar place so as a

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