Telederm Photography Best Practice Recommendations

Using Ontario Health (OTN)'s Telederm service requires the referrer to act on behalf of the dermatologist's senses.

The dermatologist will:

- Only see what you see and choose to photograph. (Ensure borders have sharp focus and hair growth is well captured. For example, show whether a hair grows beside the mole or comes out from the mole.)
- Rely on you to describe the feel and consistency of the patient's condition. For example:
  - Consistency – soft or firm?
  - Mobility – mobile or fixed?
  - Temperature – hot, warm, or cool?
- Rely on you to describe odour.

Photography and Clinical Thinking

- Dermatology diagnosis includes recognition of patterns – ensure distribution of lesions are well described and if possible, include a good representative photograph.
- One very well lighted and sharply focused image of a lesion is more important than multiple images!
- When photographing limbs, include the unaffected limb for comparison to normal state.
- Remove jewelry, makeup bandages and glasses to minimize distraction.
- Inspect the skin (particularly where the patient cannot see) to determine if there are additional lesions.
- Include a label with the patient's chart number in the image to ensure the photo will be matched to the right patient.
- Use a white paper measuring tape to demonstrate lesion size and facilitate colour balance.
- Lighting from the side at 45 degrees will prevent shadow.
- Use natural daylight if possible, do not use flash for extreme close ups.