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| Title | Feasibility and Acceptability of Telephone-based Remote Data Collection Among Older Adults in Rural Areas During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results from DePEC-Nutrition Study |
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| Abstract | **INTRODUCTION:**  The COVID-19 pandemic and its control measures have greatly affected in-person data collection of research projects. One possible solution to overcome this challenge is to adapt remote data collection methods via telephone or other digital platforms. However, it is not known whether a remote data collection is feasible and acceptable among older adults in low-middle income countries (LMICs). Here, we present the feasibility of telephone-based data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic and the acceptability of future electronic-based intervention among Malaysian older adults in DePEC (Dementia Prevention and Enhanced Care)-Nutrition.  **METHODS:**  DePEC-Nutrition is a randomized controlled trial that aimed to determine the feasibility and acceptability of a high-nitrate and reduced salt interventions among Malaysian older adults with elevated blood pressure. A total of 74 participants aged 50-75 years were recruited into this study. At interim 1, interim 2 and end of the study follow-up, semi-structured interviews were conducted via telephone to assess participants’ acceptability and experience of the intervention. Number of attempts and completion were analysed from call logs.  **RESULTS:**  The majority of participants answered the call at interim 1(94%), interim 2(89%) and end study (94%). About 80% of the participants who answered the telephone call completed the assessments with half of those who completed the assessments, completing at their first attempt. The mean number of attempts to complete the assessment was 1.5. About half of the participants (48%) were interested in future electronic-based dietary interventions while 39% had concerns around their competency of using electronic devices.  **DISCUSSION:**  These results highlight telephone-based data collection as a feasible alternative to in-person data collection and can be considered as a viable alternative for quantitative investigations among older adults in LMICs like Malaysia. However, strategies are needed to address barriers to participation in, and to support implementation of, an electronic-based intervention among older adults.  Words count: 300 |

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