



The Utility of Infectious Diseases E-consults in the Era of COVID-19

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Background

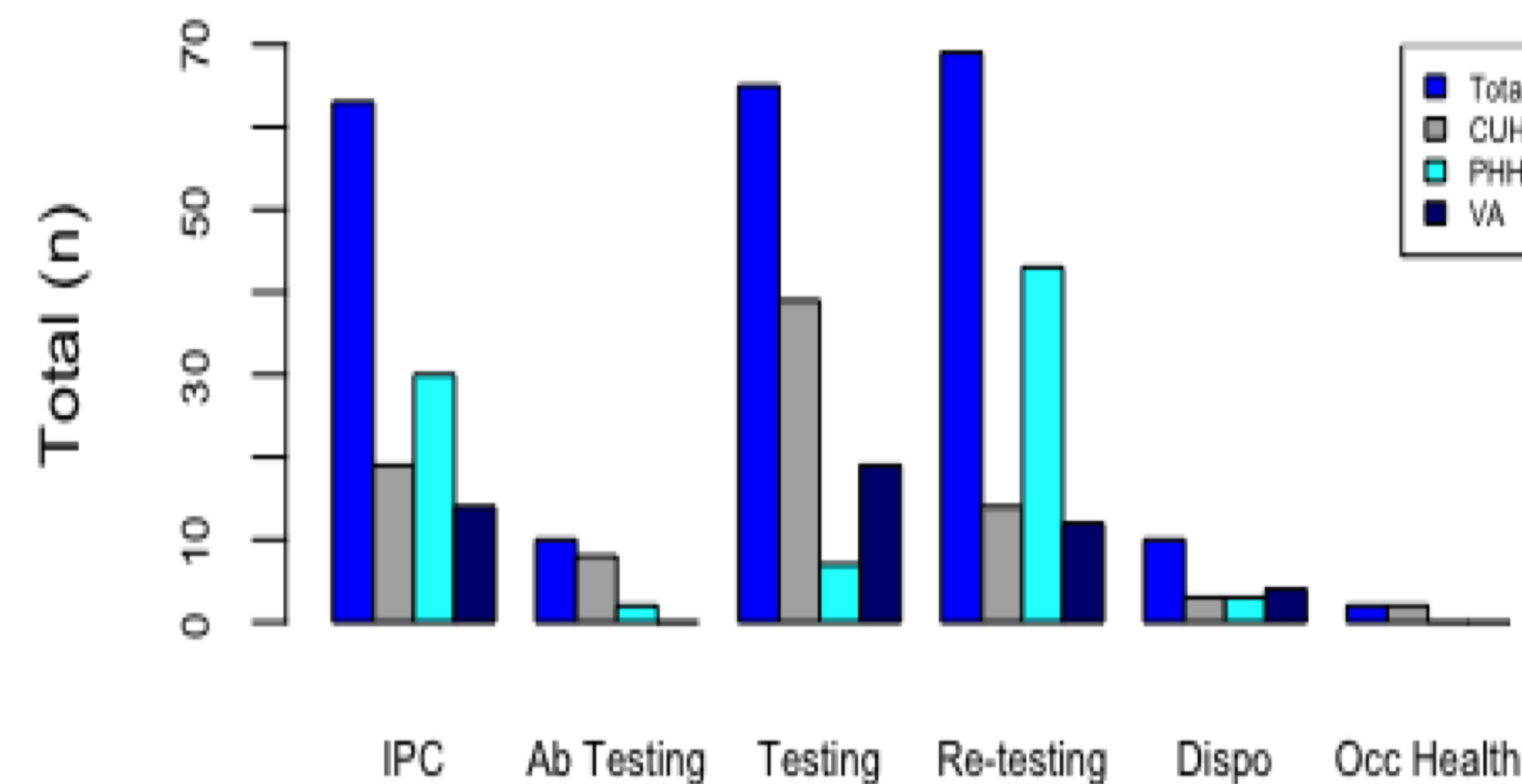
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Infectious Diseases (ID) consultation has been required to answer novel questions regarding SARS-CoV-2.
- We sought to evaluate the utility of ID E-consults to triage and provide rapid ID recommendations to providers.

Methods

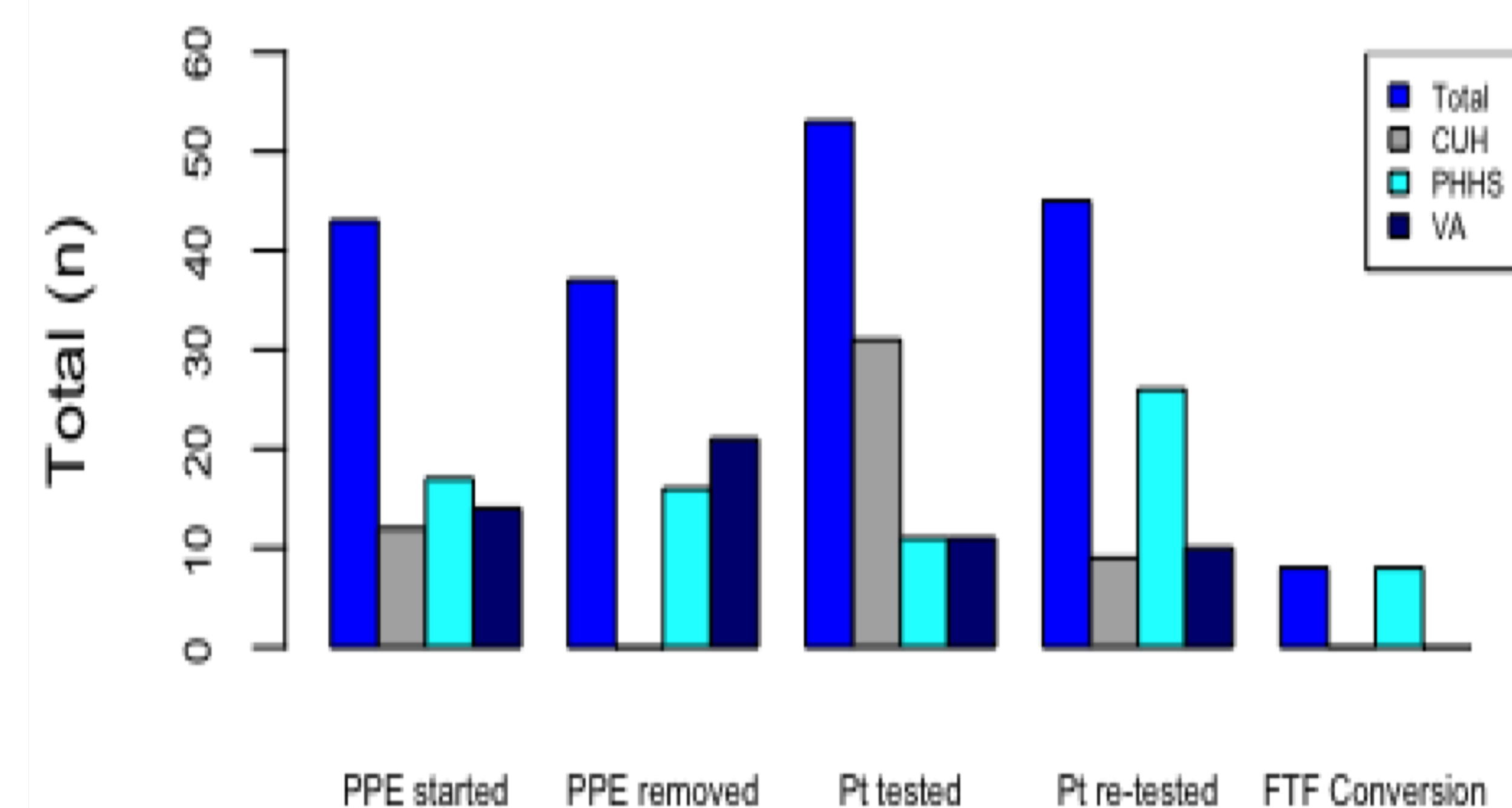
- Between March 1, 2020 to May 15, 2020 we performed a retrospective review of ID E-consults in 3 institutions in North Texas:
 - Clements University Hospital (CUH).
 - Parkland Hospital and Health System (PHHS).
 - VA North Texas Health Care System (VA).
- Variables collected: Age, sex, ethnicity, comorbidities, time to completion, reason for consult, outcome of consult.

Results

Reasons for COVID-19 Infectious Diseases E-consult (total number) per site



Outcome of COVID-19 Infectious Diseases E-consults (total number) per site



Results

- **Characteristics of 198 patients**
 - Mean age of 55.1 (SD 15)
 - 57% Male, 43% Female
 - 43% White, 36% Hispanic, 21% Black, 3% Asian
- **Patient comorbidities**
 - 45% with a heart condition
 - 39% diabetes
 - 15% asthma
 - 7% liver disease
- **Median time to completion was 4h**
 - CUH 4h vs PHHS 2h
 - VA 5.5h vs PHHS 2h

Conclusion

- E-consults provide prompt ID input during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Potential benefits of such an E-consult program are to:
 - minimize risk of infection to the patient and health care workers and
 - preserve PPE and testing supplies.