



FACTORS INFLUENCING CLINICAL COORDINATION BETWEEN CARE LEVELS: AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS IN 41 HEALTHCARE AREAS IN SPAIN

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Agenda

- Context: Clinical coordination
- Methods: Coordena-TICS Project
- Results
- Discussion

CLINICAL COORDINATION

“Clinical coordination is the harmonious connection of the different health services needed to provide care to patients throughout the care continuum, regardless of the location where they are received, to achieve a common goal without conflicts”

(Longest B, Young G. 2000)

Clinical Information Coordination

Transfer of information

Use of information

Clinical Management Coordination

Care consistency

Adequate Follow-up

**Accessibility
Between Levels**

(Aller M-B, Vargas I, Coderch J, et al. 2015)

Objective

To analyze how **factors related** to the organization of services, the interaction between professionals at different levels, and the use of coordination mechanisms affect the **different types of clinical coordination**, specifically **informational** coordination and **clinical** management, and their dimensions **across different areas of the national health system in Catalonia**.

Methods

Study Design

Cross-sectional study (May 2022–April 2023) based on an online survey of PC and SC doctors using the **COORDENA-TICs** questionnaire



Sample

2,277 responses (17.5% response rate) were collected from 41 healthcare areas comprising primary healthcare areas and their referral acute hospital

Methods

Outcome Variables

Transfer of Patient Information (Coordination of Information)

Agreement on Treatment & Joint Care Plans (Consistency of Care)

Doubt Consultation by PC & Recommendations from SC (Adequate Follow-up)

Waiting Times for Referral (Accessibility Between Levels)

General Perception of Coordination

Methods

Explanatory Variables

Organizational Support

Knowing Doctors at Other Care Level

Frequent Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)

Frequent Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

Frequent Use of Virtual Consultations via EMR

Methods

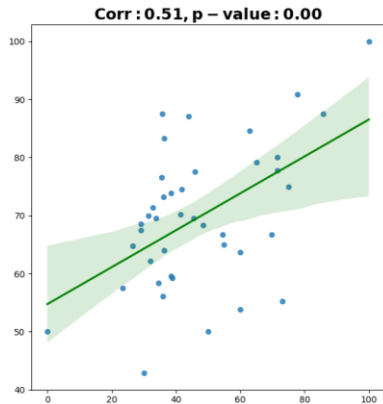
Statistical analysis

Responses were aggregated at the healthcare **area level** to represent the percentage of doctors who agreed with the statement.

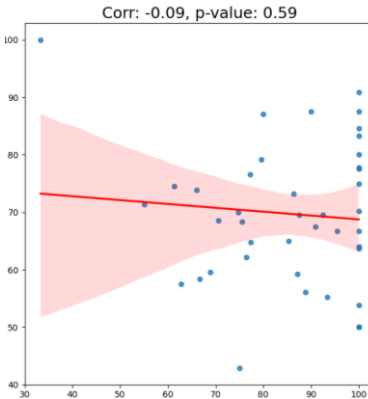
Pearson correlation analyses explored associations.

Results: Transfer of Patient Information

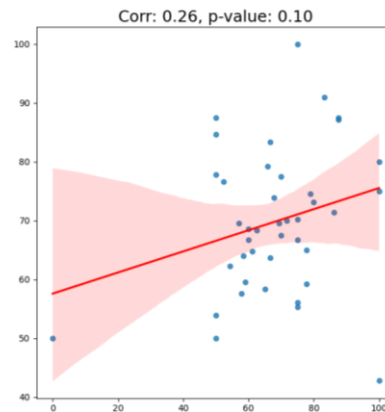
Organizational Support



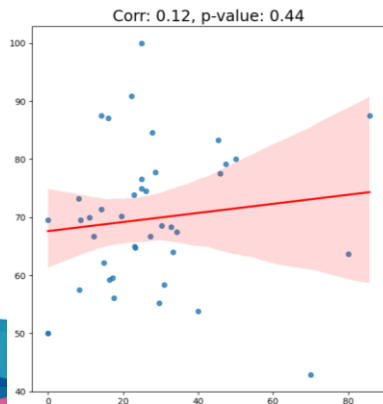
Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)



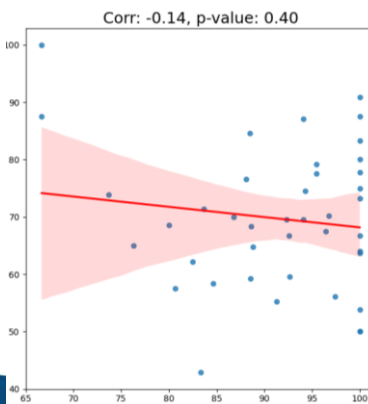
Use of Virtual Consultations via EMR



Knowing Doctors at Other Care Level

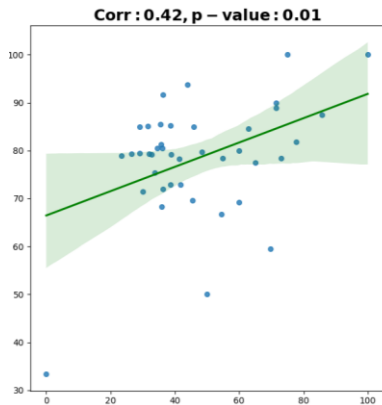


Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

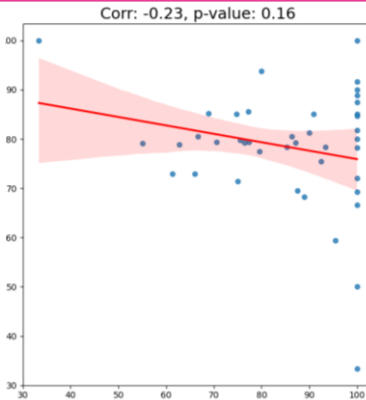


Results: Agreement on Treatment

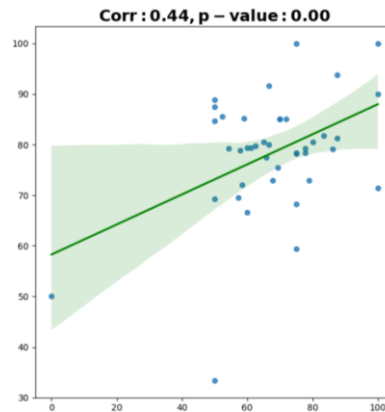
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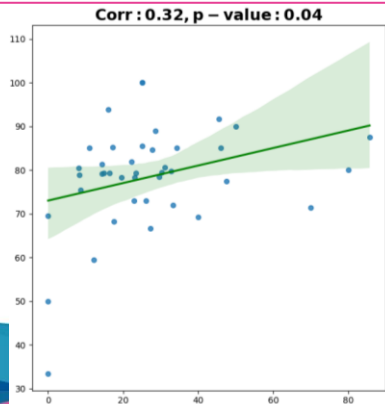
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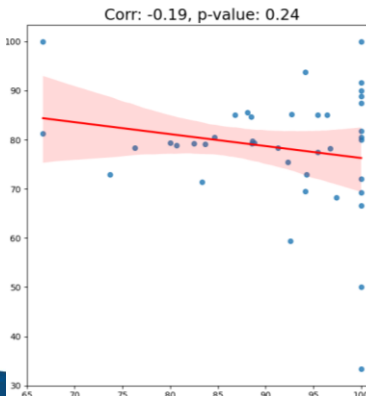
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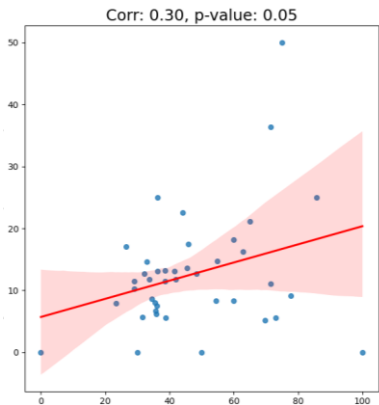


Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

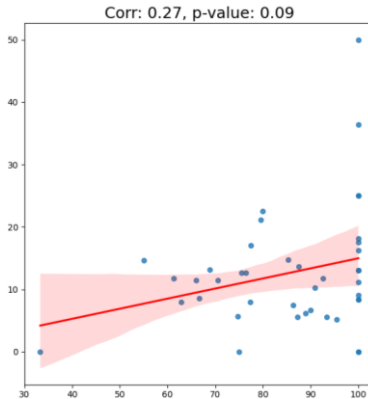


Results: Joint definition of patient Care Plans

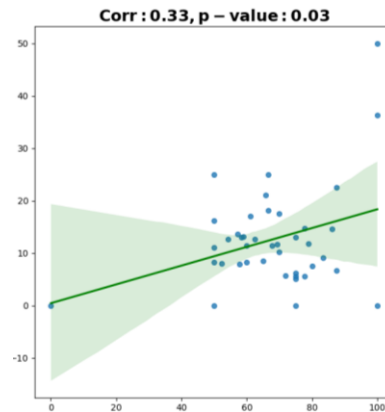
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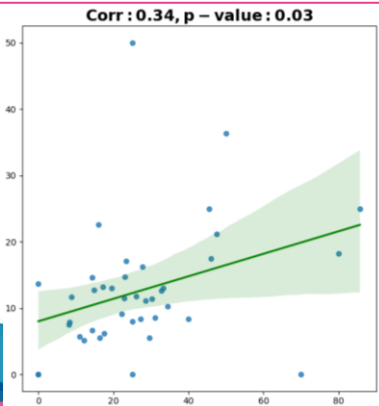
Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)



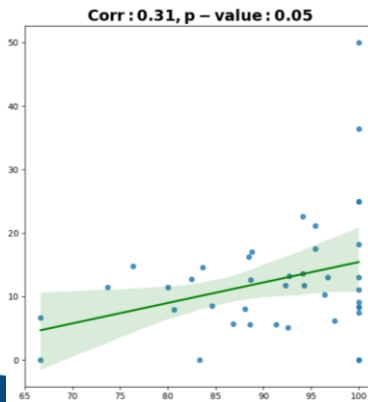
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Knowing Doctors at Other Care Level

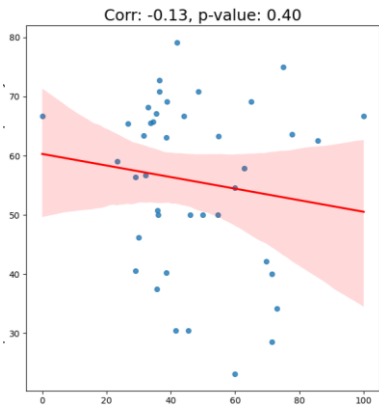


Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

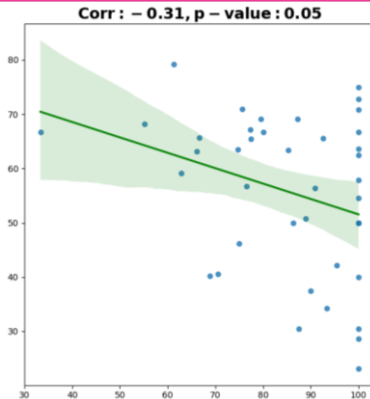


Results: Recommendations from SC (Follow-up)

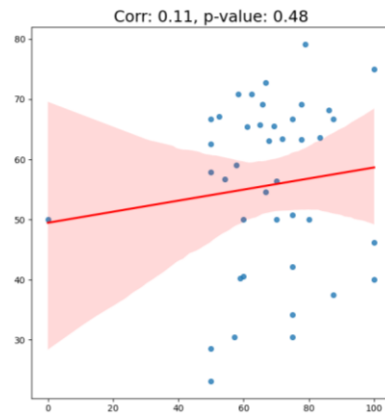
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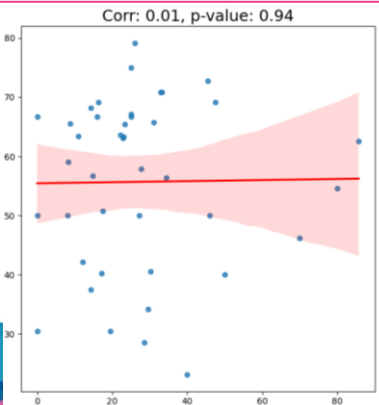
Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)



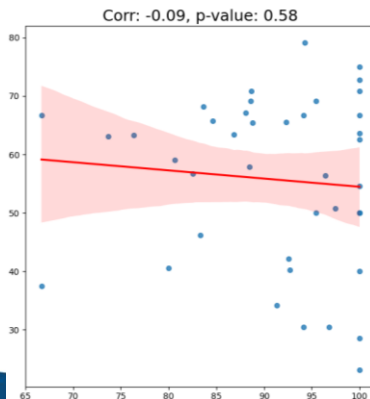
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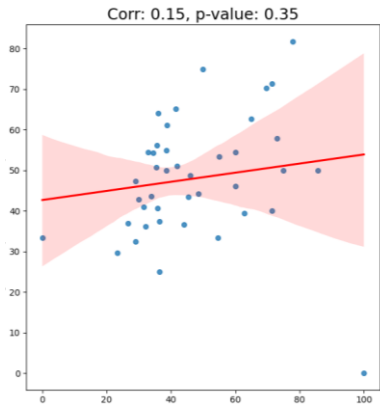


Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

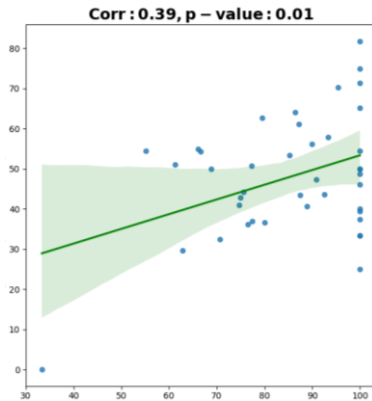


Results: Doubt Consultation by PC (Follow-up)

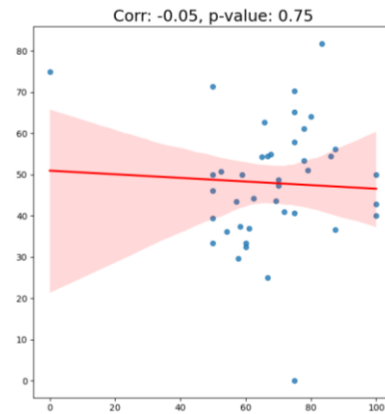
Organizational Support



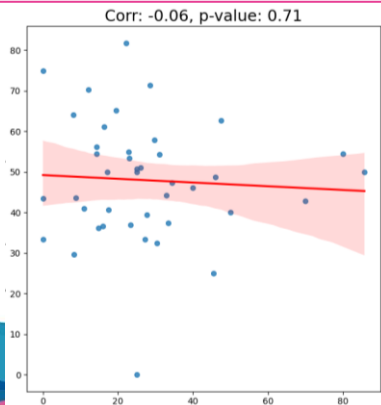
Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)



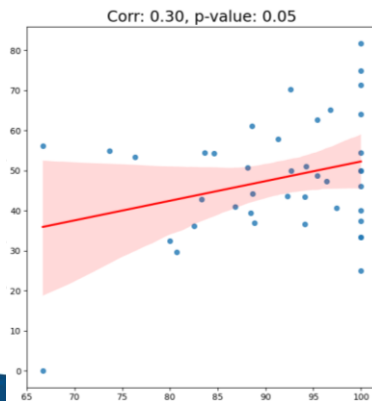
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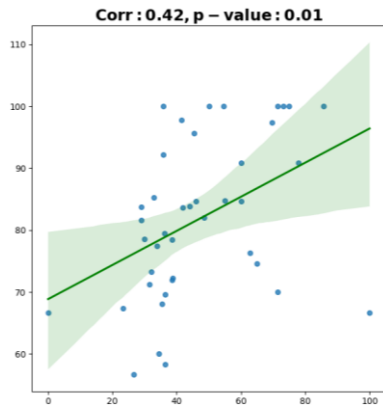


Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

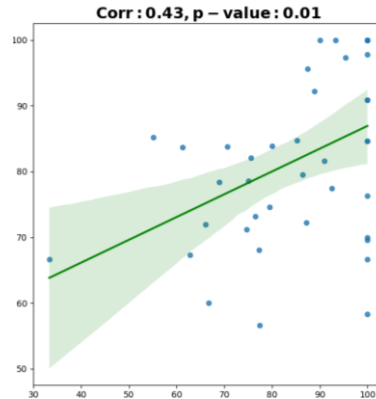


Results: Waiting Times for Referral

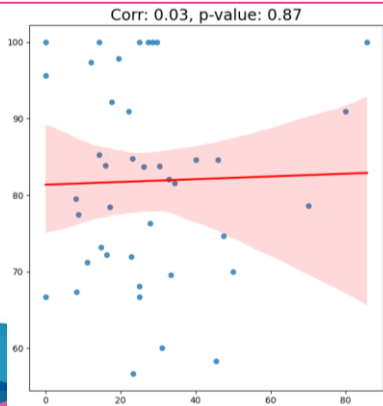
Organizational Support



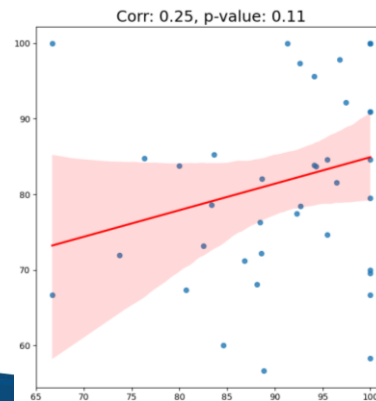
Use of Shared EMR (Catalonia)



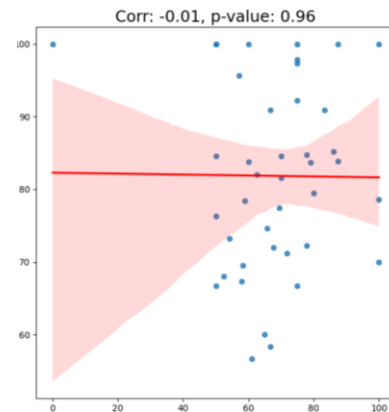
Knowing Doctors at Other Care Level



Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR

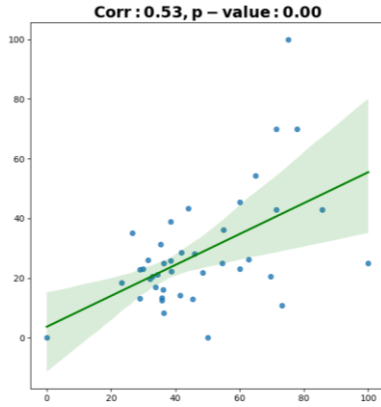


Use of Virtual Consultations via EMR

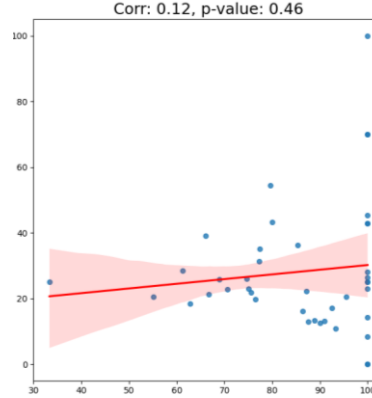


Results: General Perception of Coordination

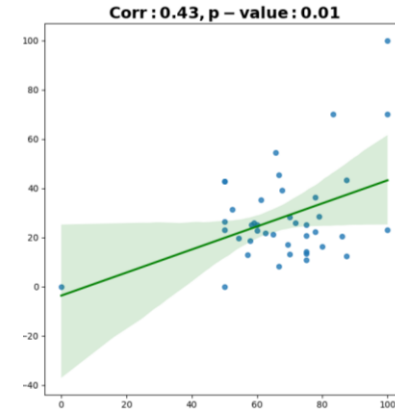
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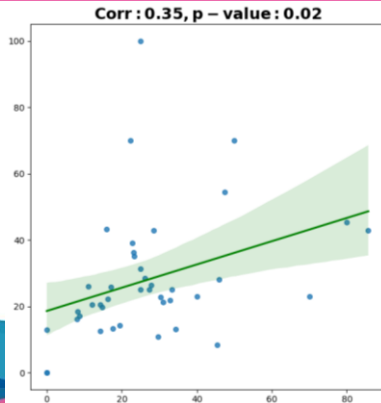
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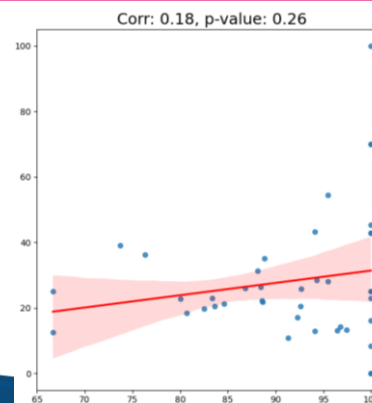
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Knowing Doctors at Other Care Level



Use of Center-Specific Shared EMR



Discussion

Organizational Support and Coordination

Organizational support plays a critical role in improving care coordination between Primary Care (PC) and Specialized Care (SC). It is consistently associated with better information sharing, treatment agreement, and overall perception of coordination.

Mutual Knowledge and Care Consistency

Inter-professional knowledge is linked to consistency of care, particularly through joint care planning and treatment agreement. This highlights the importance of fostering direct communication between professionals, especially when caring for patients with complex needs.

Discussion

ICT Tools: Opportunities and Challenges

Virtual consultations and shared electronic medical records (EMRs) support information exchange. However, they also reveal challenges, such as negative associations with hospital doctors' recommendations, indicating a need for careful implementation.

Future Research Directions

Ongoing research will evaluate how coordination mechanisms relate to outcomes, adjusting for organizational and sociodemographic characteristics of both doctors and patients across healthcare areas.

A cluster of colorful geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons in shades of pink, teal, and blue, positioned above the "THANK YOU" text.

THANK YOU

Impacte dels mecanismes de
coordinació basats en TIC en la
coordinació clínica i la qualitat
assistencial en el Sistema Nacional
de Salut (COORDENA-TICS)



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