

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES UNPRECEDENTED DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Telemedicine is stepping up to the plate and helping healthcare providers and caregivers respond more effectively to the needs of people who have contracted COVID-19 and keep track of health conditions of the persons infected. **Remote healthcare and telemedicine** allow the measuring of diagnostic indicators such as a person's temperature, heart rate and blood pressure.



According to Teladoc, the telemedicine market leader in the US, the total addressable market in the US could reach USD 10 billion with similar volumes on a global scale.

Telemedicine is contributing positively to the Healthcare sector during the pandemic, and is being used in a number of different ways. Companies like Teladoc have recently stated that the outbreak will have an important impact on their business.

+1,186%



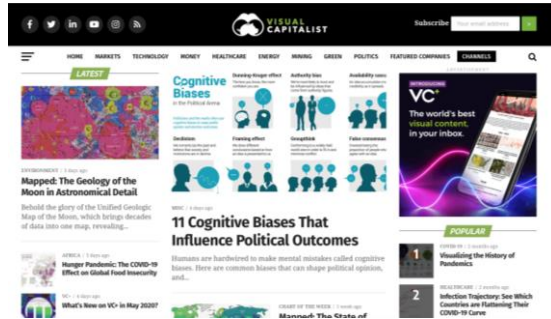
DOWNLOAD SURGE ON THE
CHINESE “**GOOD DOCTOR**”
PLATFORM DURING THE WEEK
OF 26 JANUARY



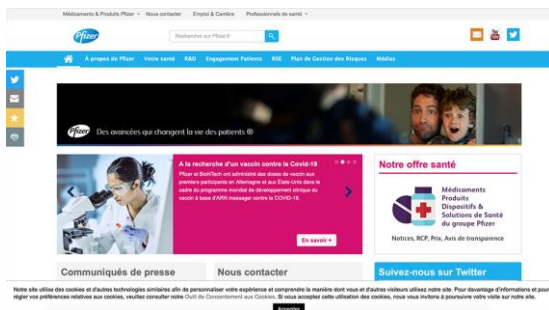
In China, the outbreak has prompted residents who were either worried about Coronavirus symptoms or simply too scared to go to hospitals to flock to platforms such as Ping An Good Doctor, Baidu Ask Doctor and Alibaba Health Information Technology Ltd. Ping An Good Doctor is currently China's largest platform, reported to have over 3 million monthly paying users at the end of 2019. **According to data from App Annie, Good Doctor's downloads figure jumped by 1,186% in the week of 26 January compared to the previous week.** In its latest earnings publication, the company also stated that the number of average daily registrations between 22 January and 6 February was ten times higher than what was observed in the first 21 days of January.



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In terms of the **diagnostics**, medical device companies have announced some major improvements. According to the website Visual Capitalist, many healthcare innovations to combat COVID-19 are currently underway, with 41 diagnostic tests subject to regulatory approval to help identify positive cases, 23 human clinical trials of treatments to alleviate symptoms or cure patients, and 5 clinical trials of vaccines to prevent potential future infections. As an example, the US company Abbott received FDA approval for its 5 minute COVID-19 test at the end of March. Fast results enable healthcare professionals to make more appropriate and effective decisions regarding treatments and infection control.



Immunotherapy could also be part of the solution in the race to finding a vaccine for COVID-19. The pharmaceutical group Pfizer announced in March that it is working on a potential vaccine with BioNTech, a German company experimenting on new types of immunotherapy. The joint effort will see the two partners work together on a messenger RNA-based vaccine designed to prevent people from contracting the novel Coronavirus.



This collaboration brings together one of the largest and most established players in the pharmaceutical sector with a younger company working at the forefront of RNA-based immune therapies. Unlike typical vaccine treatments, this one does not use samples of the virus itself, but instead relies on RNA to kick start the production of proteins which are similar to the virus and trigger the development of antibodies that are effective against the infection.

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