

PATIENTS VIEWS ON THE USE OF COMPUTERIZED VISUAL AID TO EXPLAIN PROLAPSE

Hypothesis / aims of study

We wanted to assess if using a computerized visual aid (CVA) to explain prolapse types and degrees was useful for the patient's to understand their problem and the proposed operation.

Study design, materials and methods

We conducted a retrospective face to face and telephone survey.

Patients were asked the same questions by one researcher. They were also given the opportunity to make free recommendations of how to improve the information given. Data was input in to a Microsoft excel data sheet and proportions and percentages were calculated.

Results

We contacted 42 patients with an age range from 30 to 81 years. 20 of them remembered being shown the CVA, and 38 of them remembered being given a leaflet. The results can be seen in the following table.

As patient recommendations were as follows.

- 1- The use of leaflets more specific to procedures
- 2- Increase the leaflet information about the post-Operative recovery. What to expect, what to do and what not to do.
- 3- CVA program in 3D.

Interpretation of results

We acknowledge the limitations of this small survey never the less the results regarding the use of the CVA were very consistent and with little spread across the spectrum of answers.

We concluded that the CVA is at least as good as the utilization of leaflet if not more effective than this in helping patients to understand their prolapse an the surgery they will have.

	Computerized Visual Aid		Leaflet	
	Useful to Understand Prolapse	Useful to Understand Surgery	Useful to Understand Prolapse	Useful to Understand Surgery
Excellent	18 (90%)	16 (60%)	19 (50%)	19 (50%)
Good	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	4 (11%)	10 (26%)
Average	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	9 (24%)	5 (13%)
Weak	0	1 (5%)	5 (13%)	3 (8%)
Poor	0	1 (5%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
Total Participants	20		38	

Concluding message

Visual aid it is a useful tool to communicate with patients and help them to understand the nature of the prolapse and how the surgery is done. Surveys like this can make a difference for patient and help service providers to give information in the best possible way for patients to understand it.

References

1. <http://www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk/tools-and-resources/patient-information>
2. http://www.institute.nhs.uk/quality_and_service_improvement_tools/quality_and_service_improvement_tools/patient_information.html

Disclosures

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