

Major joint replacement surgery preadmission education: the patient perspective.

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Objective:

In 2004 the orthopaedic service at Epworth Healthcare – Richmond, established a preadmission education program for patients undergoing major joint replacement surgery.

The relationship between communication, patient education, expectation and overall satisfaction with the surgical outcome is described in the medical literature as complex. In addition, time constraints, information overload, language and literacy levels are some of the recognized factors that impact on effective communication and information delivery in the clinical setting.

The workshop will present a summary of the evolution of the preadmission education program content and structure in response to patient and clinical staff feedback in the period 2004 to date. Discussion will focus on practical considerations key to the implementation of the program, the role of technology mediated information delivery and impact and outcome measures.

Content:

The workshop will include details of the preadmission education program content including the multidisciplinary input regarding the preparatory, acute and recovery stages of the major joint replacement surgical admission.

A multimedia education module included in the program as an adjunct to the major joint replacement surgical informed consent process will be presented. The multimedia information is specific to major joint replacement surgery and includes: the pathology of the surgical condition, pertinent details of the operative procedure, expected post operative course, likely benefits of the surgery and important possible consequences and complications of the surgery.

The impact and outcome measures to be presented for discussion will include results/feedback from the following: patient pre and post education program self assessment, patient and clinical staff focus groups and patient feedback surveys.

The workshop will include a discussion and feedback session for participants regarding the role of technology in the delivery of pre admission patient education.

Target Audience:

The target audience is health consumers and healthcare providers. The workshop content is aligned with the reliable health knowledge sub theme.