

AB022. SOH21AS227. A review of the psychosocial experiences of patients living with stomas in the West of Ireland

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Background: Having a stoma significantly impacts a patient's lifestyle, both physically and psychologically. Peri-operative optimisation of coping strategies is of great importance in both elective and emergency cases. We aimed to examine the psychosocial

Methods: A survey was administered to patients with stomas who benefit from outpatient colorectal care in MUH. Patients were made aware of a local stoma support group and prior knowledge of this investigated. Respondents were asked to comment on whether community supports for stoma patients were adequate.

Results: Of respondents, 36 underwent stoma creation electively (ileostomy/colostomy) and 23 emergently. Seventy-five percent of elective patients and 65% of emergency patients were aware of the stoma support group. However, 47% of elective and 52% of emergency patients felt the West of Ireland was lacking in support structures for patients with stomas. The majority of patients were not put in touch with a mentor but felt they would have benefitted from same (75% of elective and 50% of emergency). The most frequently reported issue was a paucity of pre-

operative information regarding living with a stoma (47% elective and 65% emergency).

Conclusions: In the West of Ireland, patients with stomas are generally coping well, but there is a consensus that supports available are currently inadequate and that perhaps patients would benefit from a mentoring programme peri-operatively to enhance coping strategies.

Keywords: Patient experience; psychosocial; stoma; support

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Footnote

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