

AB169. SOH22ABS196. Review of the consent and the supported decision-making process in the out-patient department for patients going for an elective inguinal hernia repair

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Background: In 2015, the ruling of the UK Supreme Court in Scotland in the case of Montgomery v Lanarkshire fundamentally changed the practice of consent. According to the Judges, doctors are no longer the sole arbiter of determining what risks are material to their patients. In this study, the RCS CONSENT: SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING guide was used to evaluate our practice in regards to consent taking for inguinal hernia repair.

Methods: Outpatient department (OPD) letters to general practitioners (GPs) were reviewed between 01/01/2019 to 30/12/2019. For risks with its percentages, alternative management exploration with the patient and whether information leaflets supplied to the patients.

Results: There were 63 patients. A total of 19/63 letters had different options of treatment documented. A total of 37/63 letters showed risks and complications documented and only a total of 4/63 letters had percentages of the risks written. A total of 25/63 patients signed consents in OPD. A total of 0/63 letters indicated a signed consent copy was given to patients. Only 10 patients had been given an information leaflet.

Conclusions: Overall quality of letters was: 36/63 were poor, 21/63 were average and 5/63 were good. Therefore, to improve our practice leaflets shall be made easily accessible in all clinics. A prompt notification, if consent has been signed when booking a patient, workshops with feedback for middle grades.

Keywords: Consent and decision-making; elective operations; inguinal hernia repair; outpatient department (OPD); consent for day case surgery

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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