Expectations versus results of total hip replacement

- the patient's view

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Abstract

The aim of this prospective cohort study was to identify the expectations of patients undergoing total hip replacement (THR) and to evaluate a possible relationship between the fulfilment of these expectations and the patient-reported outcomes. The study group comprised 56 patients aged 27-79. The patients filled out the Oxford hip score (OHS) questionnaire and a survey, designed by us, with open and closed questions regarding the patient's expectations. The patients were surveyed twice, i.e. 1-7 days before surgery and 3 months after the surgery. Statistically significant results ($p \leq 0.05$) were obtained in the areas: improving the overall health status, gait improvement, reducing pain, independence in daily activities. Results in the aspects: ability to return to work or sport and improving emotional status were statistically not relevant.

Introduction

Patients' expectations and their fulfilment are important factors in the patient-reported outcomes and satisfaction after total hip replacement.

Materials

Feature of study population		Percent of study population
BMI		
Underweight		18%
Normal Range		38%
Overweight - At Risk		25%
Overweight - Moderately Obese		18%
Professional activity		
Retired		66%
Employed		16%
Pensioner		14%
Not employed		4%
Operations of lower extremities in past		
No		63%
Yes	THR	23%
	other	14%

Methods

- Comparison of Oxford Hip Score before and after THR. OHS is standardized tool for the assessment of disability in patients undergoing THR. A high score indicates less difficulty and a low score greater difficulty.

- Open question – remarks

-Additional questions after surgery:

1. Do you think that you were well-informed before surgery about the possible consequences?
2. Do you think that the operation ended with a success?
3. If necessary, would you agree for another operation?

- Comparison of expectations before OP and assessment of results after surgery according to the scale.

Responses scale	
Definitely not	1
No	2
Probably not	3
I do not know	4
think so	5
Yes	6
Definitely yes	7

Before THR	1	2	3	4	5
	Not at all	A little	Medium	Very	Most of all
The most I care about					
Improving the overall health status					X
Improving gait				X	
Reducing pain			X		
Independence in daily functioning			X		
Ability to return to work	X				
Ability to return to sport	X				
Improving the emotional status			X		

After THR	1	2	3	4	5
	None	Small	Moderate	Large	Completely satisfactory
Improvement					
Improving the overall health status					X
Improving gait			X		
Reducing pain				X	
Independence in daily functioning			X		
Ability to return to work		X			
Ability to return to sport		X			
Improving the emotional status			X		

Results

Improving the overall health status	4.5
Improving gait	4.2
Reducing pain	4.0
Independence in daily functioning	4.0
Ability to return to work	3.8
Ability to return to sport	3.5
Improving the emotional status	3.2

Discussion

If we analyze separately patients who underwent THR previously we will see that answers in question about agreement for another operation are almost the same. This lead us to finding that patients would agree for reoperation therefore they showed that they trust the surgeon. In the open question before surgery patients expressed their hopes, anxiety and wishes, and after surgery complaints (for example "operated leg is shorter, femoral nerve was damaged), but also surprise caused by great improvement, thanks and satisfaction („I wish every patient to reach effects like I've reached").

Conclusions

This study shows that patient opinion should be component of overall evaluation of the effects of the operation. Most of the patients are satisfied with the results of operation, even though some of their expectations are not fulfilled. Some of the patients may have unrealistic expectations. Therefore, the operating surgeon should explain the effects of operation in much detail before the surgery. Some of the questions found in popular questionnaires might not be relevant to a specific population (e.g. asking the elderly people about return to work or sporting activities).

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