

Incorporating Patient Preferences into Emergency Incisional Hernia Guidelines: A Patient Survey Study

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AIMS

Incisional hernias pose a significant challenge for patients and healthcare providers. Our aim was to provide evidence informed, transparent recommendations for treating emergency ventral hernias, ensuring that patient preferences were considered in the decision-making process and incorporated into the Guideline development.

Inclusion questions:

"Do you (now or in the past) have a ventral or incisional hernia?"

"Did you have an emergency repair of that hernia?"

METHODS

Engaging Patient Perspectives :

1. Google Form Questionnaire shared via social media:- Low response rate (n=8)
2. Facebook Poll to simplify questions on key outcomes:- High response rate (n=95)

Patients were asked to rank surgical outcomes such as Surgical Site Infection (SSI), surgical site occurrences (SSO), mortality, reoperation, recurrence, length of stay, quality of life (QOL), and major general morbidity based on their importance in the short and long term.

RESULTS

Top 3 Patient-Prioritised Outcomes:

1. Maintaining bowel function: 24%
2. Quality of life (work capacity, absence of chronic pain): 23%
3. Risk of mortality: 20%.

CONCLUSIONS

Patients want to be heard and informed!!

Consider what is QOL:

Pain, Recovery, SSI, Other

"Infection and being able to return to current level of function."

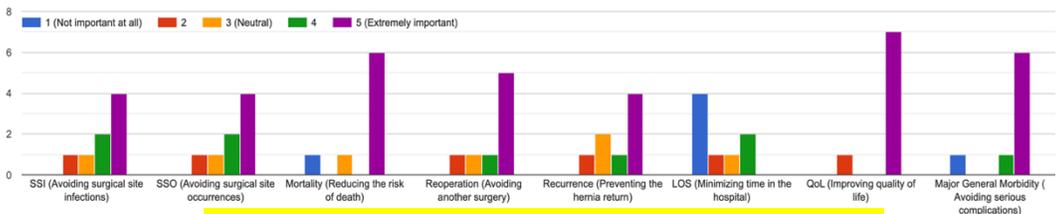
"The continue d pain."

"I do not want mesh used — please use alternatives if possible."

"Even in an emergency, patient concerns should be heard and discussed honestly."

Patients Priorities when recovering from surgery:

When recovering from emergency surgery for ventral hernia repair, different patients may have different concerns or priorities. We would like you to rate how important each of the following outcomes is to you on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'Not important at all' and 5...'Extremely important.' How important are each of the following outcomes for you personally?



What is important in the short and long term?

Some outcomes may matter more in the short-term recovery after ventral hernia surgery, while others are more important in the long-term. Please select which outcomes are most important to you in the short-term, the long-term, or both. If an outcome is not important to you, select 'Not important'.

