

Does surgical outcome influence patient recall of consent process?

Dr Ilias Liapis¹, Mr Martino Zacche¹, Mr Philip Tooze-Hobson¹

1: Birmingham Women's Hospital, United Kingdom

Introduction

Informed consent is a process designed to allow an informed, autonomous decision regarding surgery. Whilst literature exists for tools for counselling, no data looks at how surgical outcome affects patient recall of consent.

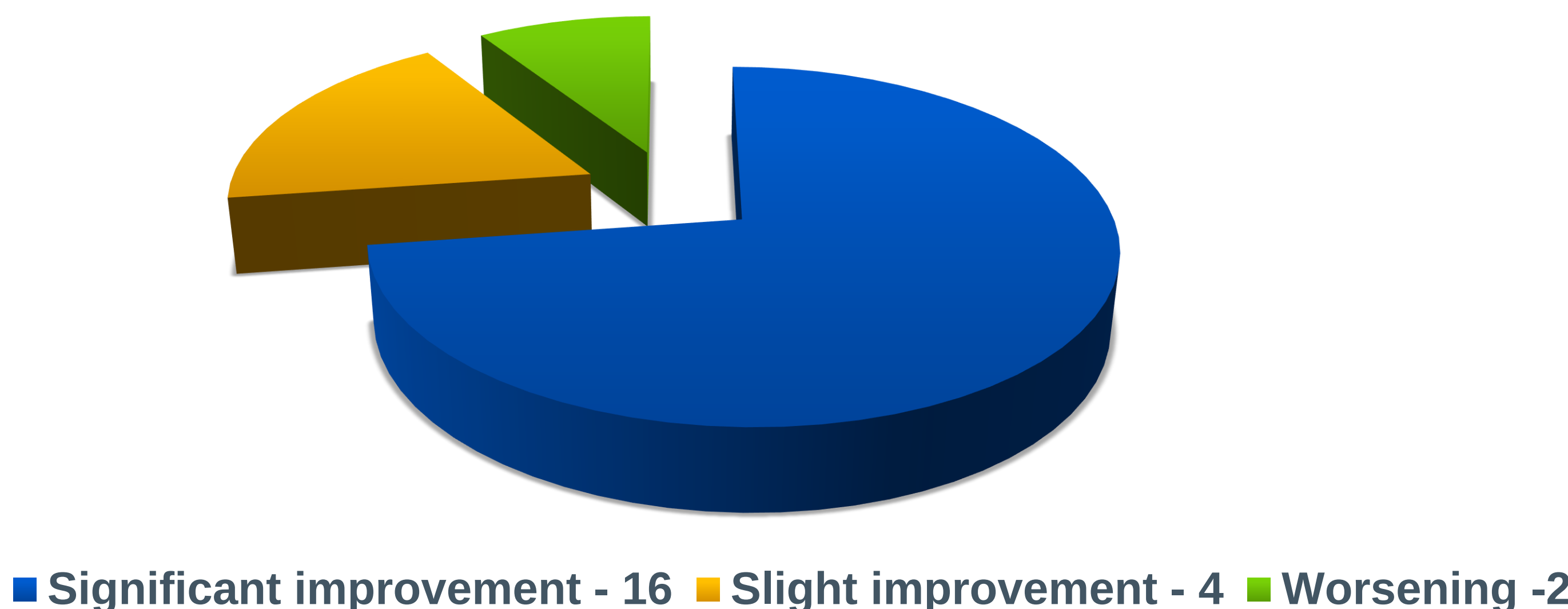
Aim

The objective of this abstract is to investigate patient's recall regarding the consent process, identifying relevant themes.

Methods

This project represents a retrospective quality assurance evaluation of surgical outcome using an expanded British Society of Urogynaecology (BSUG) Database follow up form in a tertiary Urogynaecology centre. Qualitative analysis was undertaken using Grounded Theory (Glaser and Straus). No statistical tests were applied as thematic analysis was carried out.

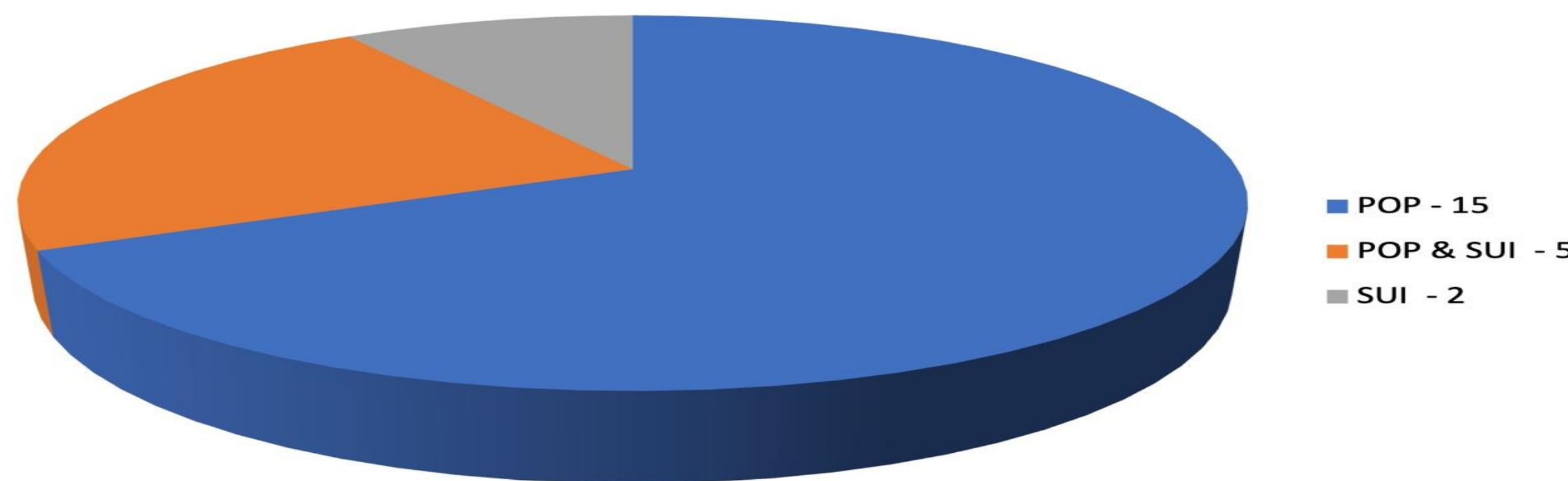
Global Impression of Improvement of Symptoms



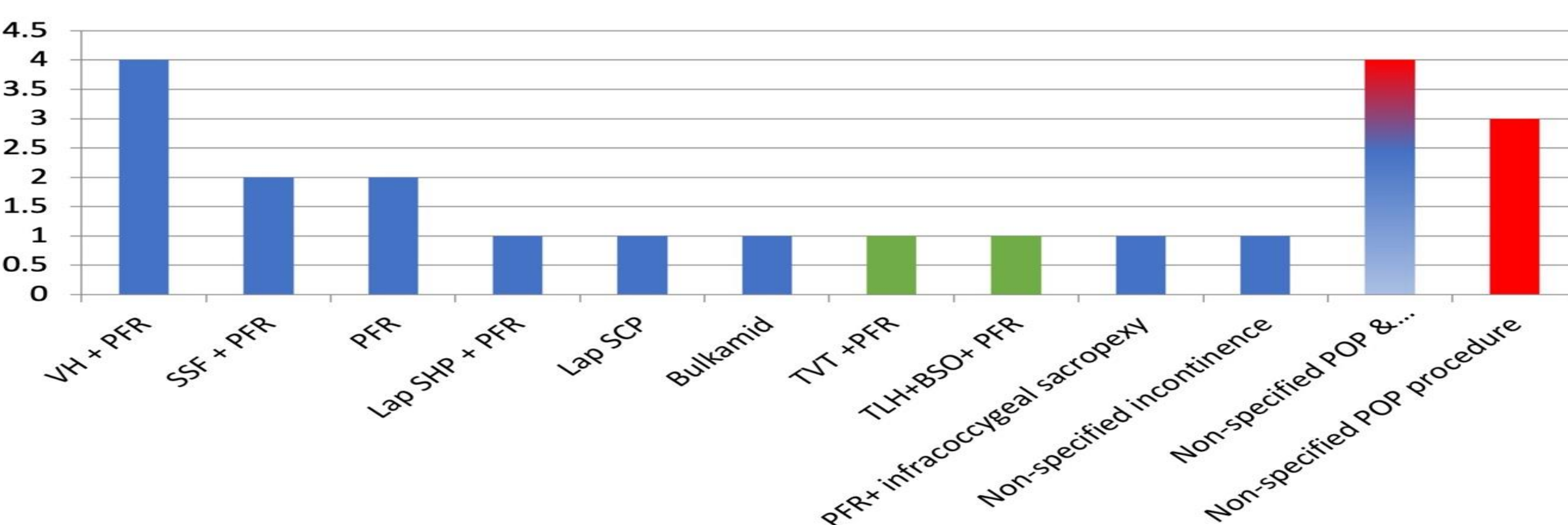
Results

247 questionnaires were sent out for the 2014 & 2018 cohort. 22 questionnaires were received giving a return rate of 8.9%. Mean Age of participants was 69.36 years. Improved patients tended to be older. Average BMI of participants was 27. The BMI of unsuccessful patients tended to be higher (>33). 16 patients improved significantly (72.72 %), 4 improved slightly (18.18%) and 2 felt their symptoms worsened (9.09%). All 16 who improved described the consent process as thorough, very pleasant, excellent, informative, and efficient (100%). Despite a standard approach to counselling, patients who were worse described the process as not informative enough regarding potential complications/risks, lacking information regarding alternative treatment options and not been given the option of a treatment.

Indication for operation



Type of procedure



Conclusion

Surgical outcome appears to impact patient's recall of consent process. Co-morbidities remain significant and need to be emphasized.

Larger, prospective, studies would be needed in order to draw more robust conclusions and further inform as to the relative constituent parts regarding the effect of surgical outcome to the recall of the consent process.