



Patient, Medical Assistance, and Nurse Perspectives on Informed Consent and Decision Aids in Inguinal Hernia Surgery

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Background

Inguinal hernia repairs one of most common surgeries worldwide

Problems exist with the informed consent process



Decision Aids may improve this process



Insight from stakeholders is critical for designing such a Decision Aid

Purpose

We sought to characterize patient, nurse, and medical assistant perspectives on the informed consent process to guide the creation of a decision aid for inguinal hernia surgery.

Methods

Patients who underwent inguinal hernia repair at our institution from October 2017 – September 2018

Nurses and medical assistants who care for inguinal hernia patients at our institution formed a third focus group

Stratified into two focus groups by race

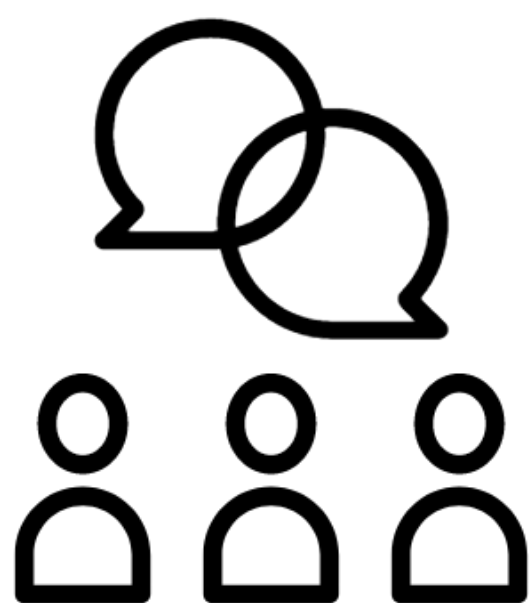
Trained interviewers conducted focus groups

Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and coded

Descriptive analysis performed with SAS

Thematic analysis performed with Nvivo 12 Plus

Results

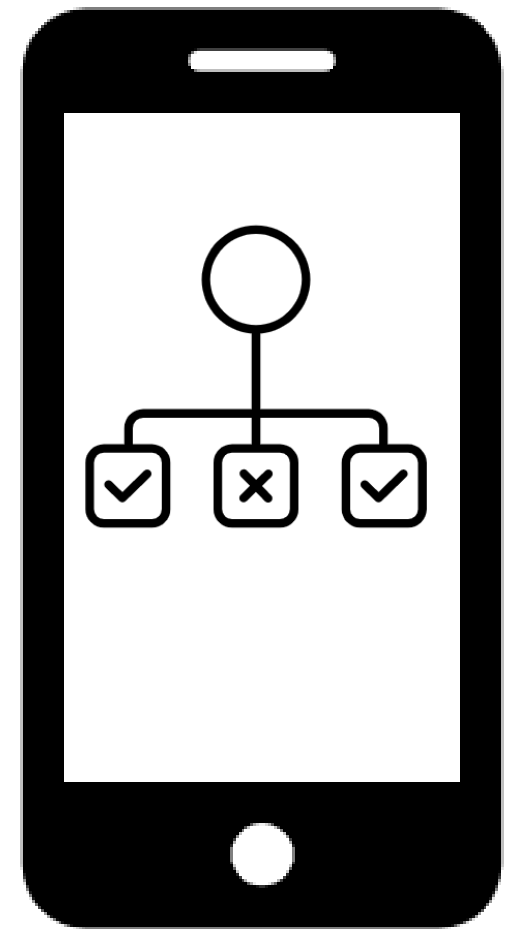
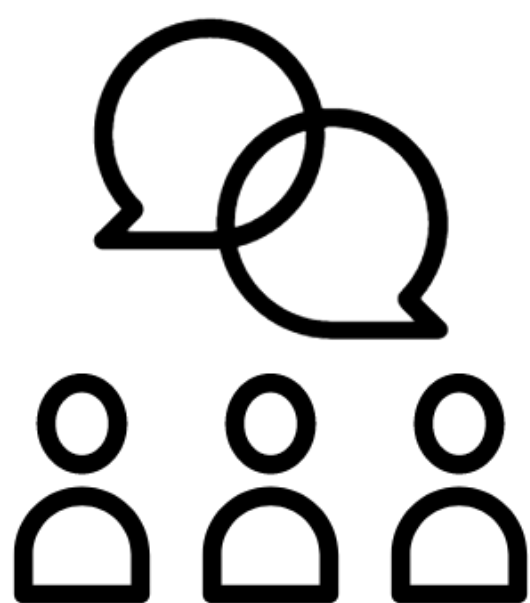


Focus Groups

16 Patients

3 Nurses

3 Medical Assistants



Informed Consent

Patient Experience

All providers educate

No alternatives provided

Information Overload

Stressful situation

Suggestions For Improvement

Time to reflect

Improve Readability

Visual Aids

“...the shock factor. You can't process that at this point because you've just been given this diagnosis. You can't process anything else until you can sit down...”

“I would've liked some kind of visual aid as to how large the mesh was and how it was attached and things like that”

Decision Aids

Role

Information Before Clinic

Decision Making

Address Questions

Format

Multiple Platforms

Reader-friendly

Free to Use

“The more information you have, the easier it is to determine that I'm either going to do this...”

“Make it reader-friendly. Make it easy to access it”

“Make it free. Make it free.”

Conclusion

Stress and information overload are common in the informed consent process

Perspectives on hernia surgery from key stakeholders are crucial for Decision Aid development

A free Decision Aid with user-friendly content on multiple platforms can inform the consent process

