



Surgeon Perspectives on Consent for Inguinal Hernia Surgery: An International Hernia Collaboration Qualitative Analysis

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Background

750,000 inguinal hernia repairs in US annually

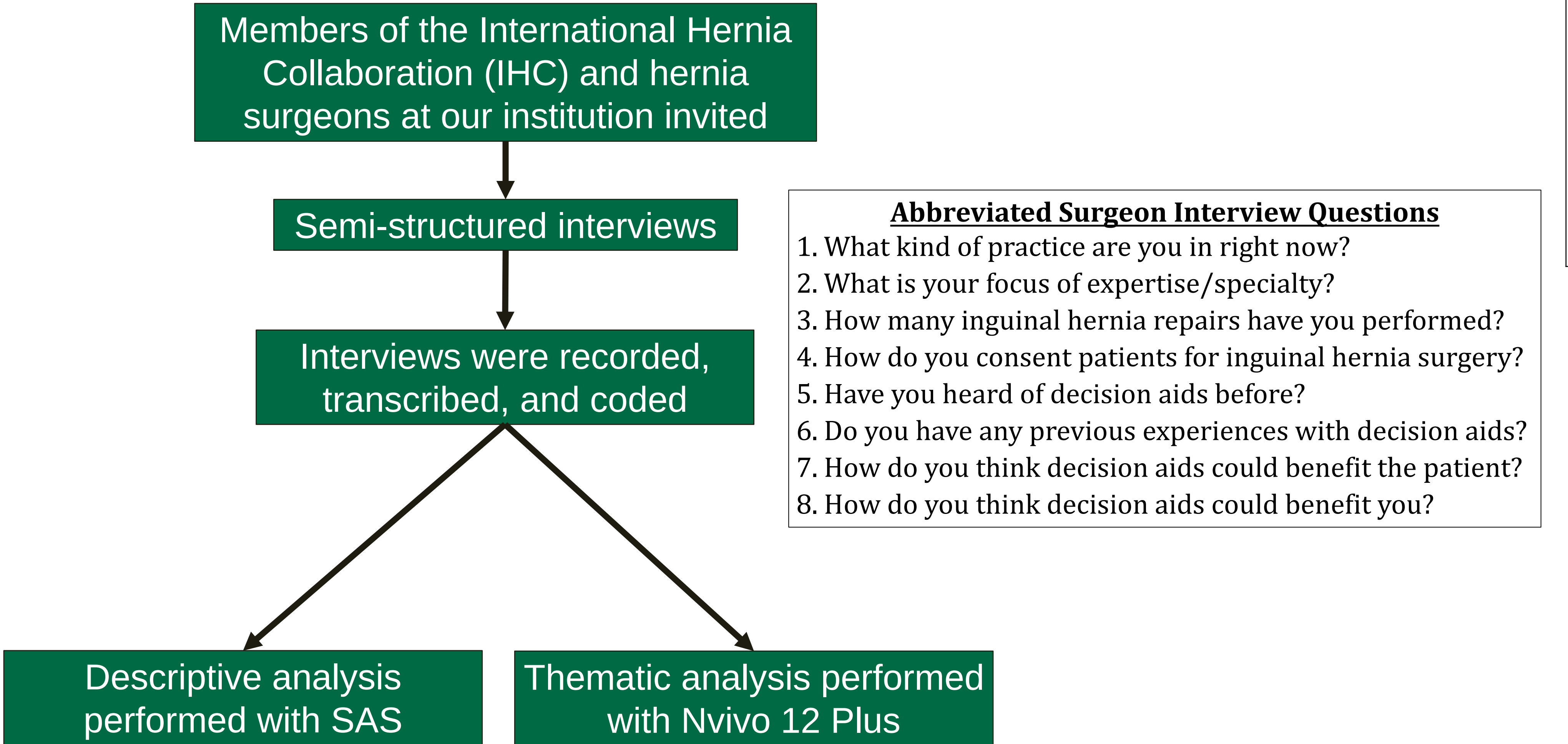
Despite how commonly they are performed, patients do not always fully understand risks, approach, or timing of surgery as discussed in the informed consent

Decision Aids may play a role in improving the patient and provider experience in the consenting process

Purpose

We sought to characterize **surgeon perspectives** on the **informed consent process** to guide the creation of a **decision aid for inguinal hernia surgery**.

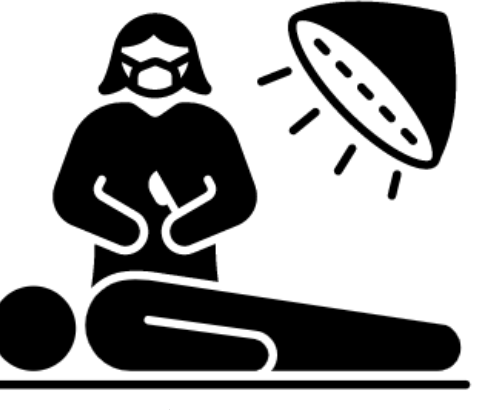
Methods



Results



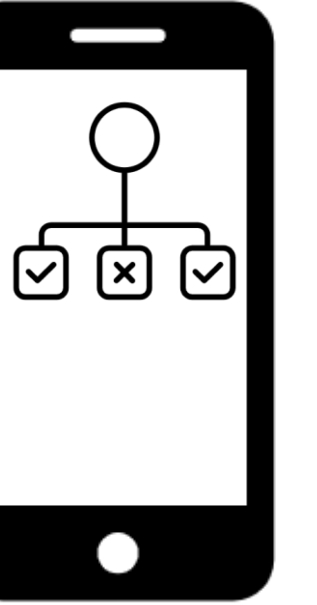
Informed Consent



Surgeon Respondents (n=12)
Avg. 11.2 years in practice
Avg. 1,200 career inguinal hernia repairs



Decision Aids



Topics Discussed		Role	
Indication	“Having a discussion around mesh, and what they see on TV, or have heard in the media about the mesh, and explaining how mesh represents a trade-off between recurrence and other potential problems”	Additional Valid Information	“The more information there is, I think, and the easier we can make it for patients to make that decision”
Details of Surgery		Empower Patients	
Risks, Including Pain		Maximize Time with Patients	
Mesh			
Areas for Improvement		Potential Barriers	
Use Multimedia	“Quick, easy access to pictures, images, graphics on my phone or an iPad...but it's gotta be quick and easy to do.”	Difficult to Access	“If they're clunky or undependable...could be a hindrance”
Improve Communication		Time Consuming	
Avoid Overloading Patients	“We overload patients with information...”		

Conclusion

The components of the informed consent process can be better communicated using a multimedia platform

A Decision Aid can empower patients to provide self-care, while at the same time maximizing time spent in clinic visits with providers.

