Gastroesophageal Reflux Management and Perceptions of Anti-Reflux Surgery: A Multi-Specialty Physician Survey

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Introduction

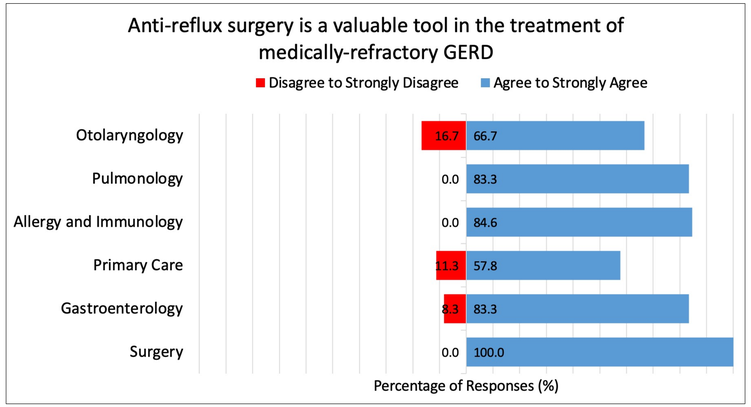
- Physicians in multiple specialties encounter patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and participate in their management
- We hypothesize that there are differences in comfort in discussing anti-reflux surgery among primary care physicians, surgeons and specialists
- This study aimed to analyze physician perceptions of anti-reflux surgery and determine whether self-perceived knowledge and practice patterns differed among specialties

Methods

- A prospective, electronic survey was sent to all PCPs, gastroenterologists, surgeons, allergy and immunologists, pulmonologists, and otolaryngologists at both a multicenter, community-based hospital system and a large academic medical center
- The survey was composed of demographic questions followed by 16 questions regarding the management of GERD and perceptions of anti-reflux surgery utilizing a five-point Likert scale
- Differences among specialties were compared using chi-square and Fisher's exact tests

Results

- A total of 132 physicians responded to the survey, the majority of which were primary care physicians (54.6%) followed by subspecialists (24.3%), gastroenterologists (11.4%), and surgeons (9.9%)
- Of total respondents, 70.8% either agreed or strongly agreed that anti-reflux surgery is valuable in the treatment of medically-refractory GERD, with no significant differences between specialties.



Contact

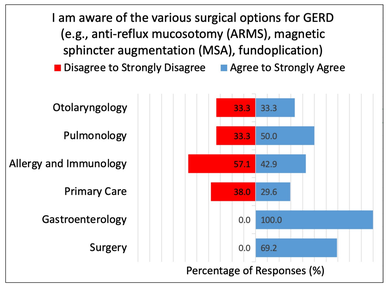
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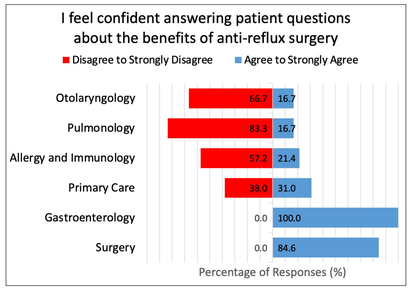
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Results

- There were significant differences among specialties in respondents' familiarity with various surgical options for GERD and confidence in answering questions regarding the benefits of surgery ($p < 0.001$)





Conclusion

- Though most physicians agree that anti-reflux surgery is a valuable tool in the management of GERD, gastroenterologists and surgeons are more aware of the options, risks, and benefits of surgery
- Educational strategies are needed to address these differences and ensure patients are appropriately referred for anti-reflux surgery when indicated

References

1. Chey WD, Inadomi JM, Booher AM, Sharma VK, Fendrick AM, Howden CW. "Primary-care physicians' perceptions and practices on the management of GERD: results of a national survey." *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2005 Jun;100(6):1237-42.