



PATIENT PERCEPTION REGARDING DAY CASE SURGICAL PROCEDURES AT PUBLIC SECTOR

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Abstract

Background: Certain surgical procedures in selective patients may be performed with safety and effectiveness ensuring same day return of the patients to their homes which might prove helpful in reducing the existing burden on healthcare facilities. This research was aimed to assess the patient perception regarding day case surgical procedures at a public sector healthcare center of South Punjab, Pakistan.

Methods: This descriptive, cross-sectional study was conducted at the Surgery and Ophthalmology Units of Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur Pakistan, in December 2022. We analyzed patients of both genders aged up to 70 years from general surgery or ophthalmology department as cases of elective surgery. Review visits were scheduled on 10th post-operative day for stitches removal, detail questionnaire about patient condition after surgery and for the evaluation and management of any complications. Ten questions were asked to assess patient perception regarding day case surgical procedures.

Results: In a total of 70 cases analyzed in this study, 35 (50.0%) were male. The mean age of the patients was 42.17±18.33 year. There were 45 (64.3%) patients who belonged to rural areas of residence. All patients (100%) were satisfied about the preoperative examination and explanation as well as guidance for post-surgery complications. There were 34 (48.6%) patients who reported that waiting time before the surgery was too long.

Conclusion: Response of patients regarding their perception about the day case surgical procedures was very good. Day case surgery among selective patients could be cost-effective and safe.

Keywords: Complications, day care surgery, perception, questionnaire, rural.

Introduction

Day-case surgery is characterised by "admission and discharge on the same day as the surgery, with day case surgery as the intended management" and is becoming common around the globe [1,2]. In comparison to inpatient surgery, the benefits of day surgery include a shorter hospital stay, reduced expenses, quicker mobilisation, less intense postoperative pain, and a lower risk of postoperative infections [3,4]. Day surgery may be just as efficient as overnight hospital stays and hospitalisation in wealthy nations [5].

Pakistan has a population of more than 225 million and facing economics and administrative challenges [6]. Certain surgical operations can be performed on chosen patients who can safely return home the same day, easing the pressure on tertiary institutions. This international trend is spreading from tertiary care facilities to district level hospitals every day [7]. Early in the 20th century, Nichollos J. reported operating on more than 9000 youngsters in a series of day cases [8]. Later in 1989, "The Royal College of Surgeons" established the "British Association of Day Case Surgery" to offer surgical services to boost patients' confidence, lower costs, and lower problems after the "American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)" criterion I or II [9].

In South Punjab region of Pakistan, not much research has been done to document the patient perception about the day case surgery so there is a need to evaluate the perception of patients about their level of understanding and satisfaction about the day case surgical procedures. The findings of this study could help us in improving the aspects highlighted by the patients visiting government run healthcare facilities for day case surgical procedures. This research was done to assess the patient perception regarding day case surgical procedures at a public sector healthcare center of South Punjab, Pakistan.

Methods

This descriptive, cross-sectional study was conducted at the Surgery and Ophthalmology Units of Bahawal Victoria Hospital, Bahawalpur Pakistan, in December 2022. Bahawal Victoria Hospital has optimal facilities of anesthetists, operation theatre and staff facility with post-operative adjacent recovery area and postoperative care team till discharge of the patients back to home.

Inclusion criteria were patients of both genders aged up to 70 years from general surgery or ophthalmology department as cases of elective surgery with no congenital cardiac anomaly, respiratory tract infection or major systemic illness. All included patients were ASA classification 1 or 2. Exclusion criteria were patients undergoing procedures that prohibited the patient from resuming oral intake within a few hours. Patients undergoing surgical procedure that could potentially involve excessive blood loss or postoperative severe pain were also excluded. Patients undergoing operations that involved opening of the abdominal cavity were also excluded.

All the patients were filtered one day prior to operation for general physical examination, for general anesthesia fitness and surgical plan discussed with parents. Informed and written consents were obtained from the patients or their parents / legal guardians. All these patients were kept nil per oral according to protocol. Complete blood count for anemia exclusion and HbsAg and antiHCV were done. Anesthesia was given according to nature and duration of the operative procedure

All patients were kept in the recovery area following surgery under the care of the on-call nurse, who maintained track of their vital signs. They were transferred to their parents' care in a waiting area next to the operating room after they were awake and stable, following a check-up by the anaesthetist. Patients or their carers received further instructions for post-operative care at home, such as food, ambulation, and administration of oral medicines, before leaving the hospital. To call the operating surgeon in the event of a problem or emergency, a phone number was also given. Review visits were scheduled on 10th post op day for stitches removal, detail questionnaire about patient condition after surgery and any complications. Ten questions were asked to assess patient perception regarding day case surgical procedures. A special proforma was made to collect all study data. All the study data was entered and analyzed using "Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)", version 26.0. Qualitative variables as gender, area of residence and response to questions were shown frequency

and percentages. Mean and standard deviation were calculated for age. Descriptive statistics were applied for data representation.

Results

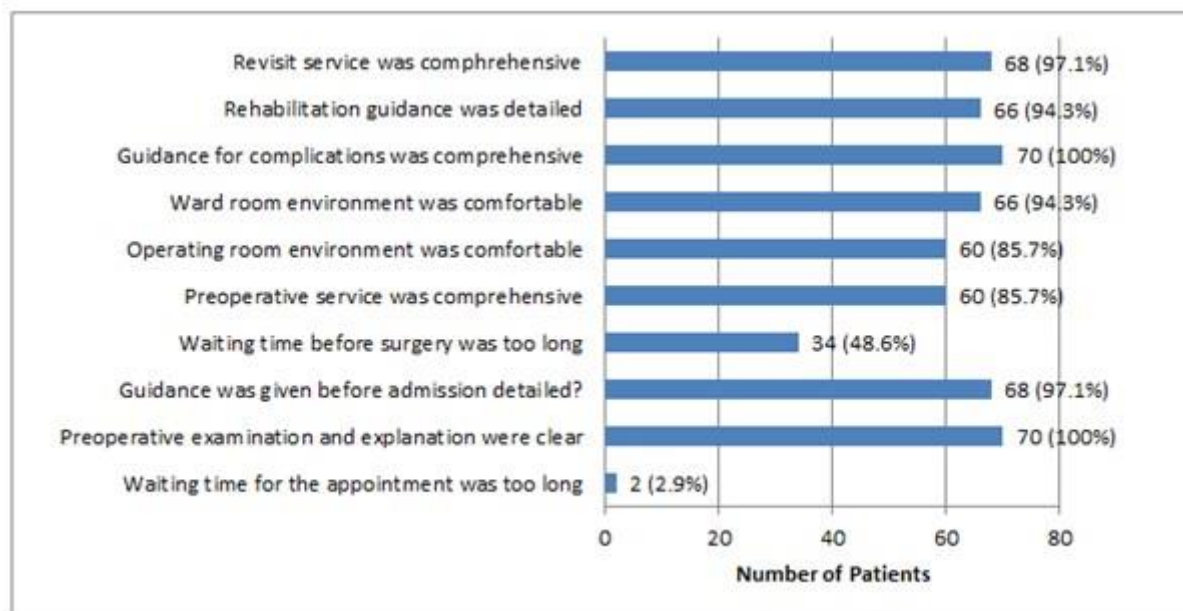
In a total of 70 cases analyzed in this study, 35 (50.0%) were male and 35 (50.0%) females representing a male to female ratio of 1:1. The mean age of the patients was 42.17 ± 18.33 years ranging between 7-70 years. There were 25 (35.7%) patients who belonged to urban areas of residence while remaining 45 (64.3%) patients belonged to rural areas of residence. Table-1 is showing characteristics of patients studied.

Table-1: Characteristics of Patients Undergoing Day Case Surgery (n=100)

Characteristics		Number (%)
Gender	Male	35 (50.0%)
	Female	35 (50.0%)
Age (years)	<18	10 (14.3%)
	18-45	28 (40.0%)
	46-70	32 (45.7%)
Residence	Urban	25 (35.7%)
	Rural	45 (64.3%)

All patients (100%) were satisfied about the preoperative examination and explanation as well as guidance for post-surgery complications. There were 34 (48.6%) patients who reported that waiting time before the surgery was too long. Overall, response of patient about the perception of day case surgery was very good. Figure-1 is showing details of response of patients regarding their perception about the day case surgical procedures.

Figure-1: Patient perception regarding day case surgical procedures (n=100)



Discussion

The concept of day case surgery is internationally recognized now days but can be implemented in Pakistan by implementing internally accepted criterion for day case surgery. Alterations are needed to encourage the concept of day case surgery. Due to certain obstacles like resource limitation, illiterate patients, inadequate and improper transportation, day case surgery can be of real use in a developing country like Pakistan. The improved mobile phone communication has decreased the gap between patients and hospital thus day case surgery is growing [7,10].

In the present study, 100% patients were satisfied about the preoperative examination and explanation as well as guidance for post-surgery complications. There were 48.6% patients who reported that waiting time before the surgery was too long but overall response of patient about the perception of day case surgery was very good. A local study analyzing cases of day case surgery concluded that day care surgery is a safe option in selected paediatric surgical patients [11]. Some have considered day case surgery to be cost effective, had maximum parental satisfaction, reduced hospital bed occupancy and improved the hospital care for major elective surgical cases in terms of relaxation of operation waiting lists and good nursing care for less number of patients [12]. Another study by Yu et al found that more than 95% patients undergoing day case surgery were satisfied with the healthcare services and staff's attitude while 84% showed satisfaction over perioperative surgery communication [13]. Recent data from China has shown that day case surgery is considered a popular choice but there is a need to ensure high-quality perioperative care teaching focusing day case surgery care. In some of the developed countries, day case surgery is estimated to involve 80% of elective surgery cases but regional data suggests that this proportion hovers around 20% [14,15].

Patient satisfaction about various aspects of healthcare delivery services is considered very important in the contemporary world [16]. Our findings showing very good satisfaction rates about various corners of day case surgery is aligned with the published literature [17]. Proper selection of patients, pre and post op counseling are the corner stone of good outcomes in day care surgery. Relatively small sample size, single center study setting and a cross-sectional study design were some of the limitations of this study.

Conclusion

Response of patients regarding their perception about the day case surgical procedures was very good. Day case surgery among selective patients could be cost-effective and safe. with available communications system like mobile phone and road linkage in rural areas.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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