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PARENTS' SATISFACTION TO PAEDIATRIC LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY: A VALUABLE INSIGHT

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Background:

Paediatric laparoscopic or minimally invasive surgery is a specialised area within paediatric surgery. A general paediatric surgeon will have to undergo specialised training programme to enable him to be skilled at performing safe laparoscopic surgery. It is only recent that developing nation like Malaysia seriously moves towards advanced paediatric laparoscopic surgery; performing more complex and advanced procedures especially in neonates. The efficacy, safety and other benefits of laparoscopic surgeries have long been proven; however, studies on parent's satisfaction to paediatric laparoscopic surgery are scarce. Our institution embarks in a new era of paediatric laparoscopic services for the country in 2008. We evaluated parents' satisfaction in order to have insight to what matters most to them. Such information is vital to improve the quality of laparoscopic services in the future.

Material and Methods:

A cross-sectional observation study was carried out over 27 months at the institution to determine parents' satisfaction level to paediatric laparoscopic surgeries. These were both retrospective and prospective study. Simple validated questionnaire was used and 110 parents were interviewed. 100 parents eventually completed the study.

Results:

There were significant satisfaction of parents towards less experience of pain after surgery ($p < 0.05$); good immediate wound appearance ($p < 0.05$); good scar appearance ($p < 0.05$); and less wound complication ($p < 0.05$) and doctors' explanation before surgery ($p < 0.05$). The Coefficient Correlation, r value was evaluated; less pain after surgery ($r = 0.535$), good immediate wound appearance ($r = 0.415$) and good surgical scar appearance ($r = 0.403$) had strong correlation to parents' satisfaction. However, doctor's explanation ($r = 0.267$) and wound complication ($r = -0.201$) had low correlation to parents' satisfaction. Ninety nine percent of parents were satisfied with the overall paediatric laparoscopic experience.

Conclusion:

Aesthetic value of the wound and minimal pain after surgery are found to be the most important parameters to parents' satisfaction to paediatric laparoscopic surgery at our institution. This result is comparable to other established centres in the world.

Key words:

paediatric, laparoscopic surgery, parents' satisfaction