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Clinical applicability and revision of the ACaPELa questionnaire

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Introduction

- The Assessing and Caring for Patients' Expectations in Laryngology (ACaPELa) questionnaire was created to understand patients' thoughts and concerns and guide clinical consultation.
- As part of our standard clinical practice, all patients attending the laryngology clinic in our department complete the ACaPELa, rank ordering their expectations prior to the clinical consultation.
- Feedback received from the patients during the 2-year run of the voice clinic using the above set-up has indicated that the questionnaire was proven difficult to rank order, with patients' finding some of the options very similar in content.

Aim

- To validate and revise ACaPELa to ensure its clinical applicability

Methods

- Prospective study
- Collection of ACaPELa replies Sept '16 – Sept '17.
- Friedman statistical test to identify redundant questions and revise ACaPELa.
- Audit completion rate and patients' satisfaction using the refined ACaPELa (ACaPELa – R) Feb - May '18.

Results

- 242 patients completed ACaPELa.
- 1.7:1 female predominance. Mean age: 53 (SD 17.8)
- 36 patients (15%) gave the same ranking in more than one, up to all questions.

ACaPELa questionnaire

Question (Q)	Ranked first	Ranked last	Total Number	Not ranked
1. I want to know what is wrong with my voice	81	11	201 (83.1%)	41 (16.9%)
2. I want to know what is wrong with my throat	79	5	206 (85.1%)	36 (14.9%)
3. I want to know what is wrong/diagnosis	59	4	199 (82.2%)	43 (17.8%)
4. I want to know if I have cancer	41	45	158 (65.3%)	84 (34.7%)
5. I want to know if have something seriously wrong	34	31	187 (77.3%)	55 (22.7%)
6. Tell me what I can do to make my throat problem better	30	8	190 (78.5%)	52 (21.5%)
7. Tell me how I can improve my voice/I want my voice to improve	21	33	173 (71.5%)	69 (28.5%)
8. I want to know what the ENT team can do to make me better	26	21	183 (75.6%)	59 (24.4%)

- Q3 was consistently given similar ranking to Q1 and Q2 ($p=0.64$ and $p=0.90$ respectively). Q4 and Q5 had closely related rankings ($p=0.615$). Similarly, Q8 had similar rankings to Q6 and Q7 ($p=0.179$ and $p=0.983$ respectively).
- A revised questionnaire, the ACaPELa-R is introduced, from collapsing questions with non-detectable differences on rank ordering to broader themes.

ACaPELa-R questionnaire

1. I want to know what is wrong with my voice
2. I want to know what is wrong with my throat
3. I want to know if I have cancer
4. Tell me how I can improve my voice
5. Tell me what I can do to make my throat problem better

- The ACaPELa –R was audited prospectively in a cohort of 50 patients. Also assessing patients' post-consultation satisfaction.
- Only 3 patients gave same ranking to more than one questions (6%).
- 96% (48/50) were 100% satisfied that all their questions were answered during the consultation.

Conclusions

ACaPELa-R has improved clinical applicability, facilitating rank ordering of patients' expectations. Patient were highly satisfied that all their concerns were addressed at the end of the consultation.