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Joana Araújo de Azevedo

Associação entre expectativas dos pacientes e resultados
reais em cirurgia a patologia degenerativa da coluna.

Association between patient's expectations and real
outcomes for degenerative spine surgery.

Março, 2020

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Dr. Pedro Santos Silva

E sob a Coorientação de:

Professor Doutor Paulo Miguel da Silva Pereira

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Eu, **Joana Araújo de Azevedo**, abaixo assinado, nº mecanográfico **201403236**, estudante do 6º ano do Ciclo de Estudos Integrado em Medicina, na Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto, declaro ter atuado com absoluta integridade na elaboração deste projeto de opção.

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DESIGNAÇÃO DA ÁREA DO PROJECTO

Neurocirurgia

TÍTULO DISSERTAÇÃO/MONOGRAFIA (riscar o que não interessa)

Association between patient's expectations and real outcomes for degenerative spine surgery.

ORIENTADOR

Dr. Pedro dos Santos Silva

COORIENTADOR (se aplicável)

Professor Doutor Paulo Miguel da Silva Pereira

ASSINALE APENAS UMA DAS OPÇÕES:

É AUTORIZADA A REPRODUÇÃO INTEGRAL DESTA TRABALHO APENAS PARA EFEITOS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO, MEDIANTE DECLARAÇÃO ESCRITA DO INTERESSADO, QUE A TAL SE COMPROMETE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
É AUTORIZADA A REPRODUÇÃO PARCIAL DESTA TRABALHO (INDICAR, CASO TAL SEJA NECESSÁRIO, Nº MÁXIMO DE PÁGINAS, ILUSTRAÇÕES, GRÁFICOS, ETC.) APENAS PARA EFEITOS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO, MEDIANTE DECLARAÇÃO ESCRITA DO INTERESSADO, QUE A TAL SE COMPROMETE.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto, 10/3/2020

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Para aqueles que percorreram
este caminho comigo.

Title:

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Title: Association between patient's expectations and real outcomes for degenerative spine surgery.

Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this study is to compare patient's expectations before surgery for degenerative spine disease to postoperative perceived outcomes and identify main factors that correlate with higher expectations and their fulfillment. The study question is whether patient's pre-surgical expectations can predict actual outcomes.

Methods: Consecutive patients submitted to degenerative spine surgery between August 2018 and May 2019 in our spine center were enrolled. Patient's expressed expectations were recorded using the Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery Expectations Survey and compared to the same instrument, three months after surgery. Patient reported outcomes were evaluated using the COMI questionnaire before and after surgery.

Results: A total of 120 patients were analyzed. The mean score of expectations reported by patients was $82.87\% \pm 14.57\%$ and post-surgical score was significantly lower, $60.5 \pm 20.6\%$ ($p < 0.001$). In a multivariate analysis, only a history of spine surgery and a longer duration of symptoms were associated with low pre-surgical expectations. Lumbar surgery was associated to a lower ratio between postoperative and preoperative Expectations Survey scores. An improvement on the COMI score after surgery was achieved in 85% of the patients, but only 14% reported that their expectations were matched or exceeded.

Conclusion: The pre-surgical expectations were significantly high, but the post-surgical results were less optimistic. Lower expectations and lower perceived success after surgery can be anticipated on some patients based on preoperative features. Although 85% of patients improved after surgery, their expectations weren't met in most cases.

Keywords

Spine Surgery; Patient Expectations; Patient Satisfaction; Surgery outcomes; COMI score; Patient outcomes;

Introduction

Surgery for degenerative pathology of the spine is becoming more frequent and the role of elective surgery is progressively overriding [1]. Patients may present with a long list of symptoms, that can seriously interfere with quality of life, functional capacity, social and professional life [2]. The elective feature of the surgery makes patient's expectations about a possible improvement a very important factor when considering and undertaking this type of interventions [3] [4].

Traditionally, evaluation of surgical outcomes and efficacy has been mostly based on objective parameters with the purpose of assessing the functional status and neurological function, as well as on imaging methods [5]. More recently, patient's perception of outcomes has been more and more integrated in post-surgical evaluation [6]. Patient satisfaction with how much the surgery influenced his/her physical and psychological well-being is also an important parameter in assessing surgery effects. These topics should be considered during the pre-surgical discussion, to help decision-making about the surgical strategy, since it is a critical issue to try that the patient feels fulfilled and enjoyed with the results, while understanding what is effectively achievable within his/her clinical condition [5].

To assess patient's expectations it is essential to create standardized tools based and centered on the patient [2]. Questionnaires should be based, not only in disease-specific symptoms and physical outcomes, but also on everyday aspects and how the spine condition interferes with patient's activities, professional and social life [7].

The purpose of this study is to explore the association between patient pre-surgical expectations and the outcomes three months after surgery, trying to understand if expectations can somehow predict patient's satisfaction and analyze whether there is any relation with demographic data, surgical factors, clinical parameters and functional outcomes.

Materials and Methods

A prospective observational study was conducted, involving all consecutive patients undergoing surgery for degenerative spine pathologies in the Neurosurgery department of Centro Hospitalar Universitário São João, between August 2018 and May 2019. Approval for data collection was obtained from hospital's ethics committee.

Eligible criteria included patients with eighteen years or older, undergoing lumbar or cervical spine surgery for a degenerative pathology. Patients with non-degenerative pathologies, without at least a valid pre-surgical questionnaire and who did not consent to participate in the study, were not included.

Patients answered a questionnaire the day before surgery to assess patient's expectations of improvement with the procedure, as well as COMI questionnaire for cervical or lumbar pathology (Core Outcome Measures Index). The same questionnaires were sent by mail to patient's address and six weeks later, if a reply has not been received, telephone contact was established.

The expectation questionnaire is an adaptation to Portuguese of the Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery Expectation Survey from the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY [8], which evaluates pain, functional and work capacity, leisure, mental well-being, present condition and future improvement in a series of twenty one questions. Three months after surgery it was applied a questionnaire, with the

same questions, about patient satisfaction with surgery results. From these questionnaires we calculated two scores, the Expectation Survey Score (ESS), related with pre-surgical expectations, and the post-surgical satisfaction. Both scores were calculated through the equation [number of total points/(4 x number of questions answered)]. The denominator was the number of maximum possible points to score in the questions that were answered by the patient (excluding questions that patient chose the answer “I have no expectations about this point or doesn’t apply to me”). The answers score from 0 to 4, where 4 corresponds to “Back to normal or total improvement”, 3 to “Great improvement”, 2 to “Moderate improvement”, 1 to “Little improvement” and 0 to “I have no expectations about this point or doesn’t apply to me”.

The COMI cervical and lumbar were used as a Patient Related Outcome measure. The COMI assesses the effects of spine pathology in patient’s life and has been validated for Portuguese language. It includes the dimensions of Pain, Symptom-specific well-being, Quality of life and Disability [9], [10].

The remaining data were obtained from patients’ clinical records, and included age, gender, actual or past occupation, education level, history of psychiatric disease, body mass index, smoking status, incapacity for work previous to surgery, number of previous spine surgeries for degenerative pathology, symptom duration before surgery and data about surgery, such as the number of levels operated and type of surgery (anterior cervical, posterior cervical, non-instrumented lumbar, instrumented lumbar). Data related to patient occupation was categorized according to Portuguese Classification of Occupations 2010 [11].

For descriptive analysis mean and standard deviation were used for continuous variables and proportion for categorical. The T-test was used for related and independent samples to compare means when normal distribution was verified. For exploratory analysis, correlation between continuous variables was determined using Spearman correlation. For the comparison of answer-to-answer paired samples regarding scores before and after surgery, the analysis of closeness of agreement were used calculating the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC). To analyze how variables influenced pre-surgical expectation score, a univariate and multivariate Linear Regressions Model was used. To investigate variable’s influence in the fulfillment of expectations, we have defined the variable “Expectation ratio” (Post-surgical Score / Pre-surgical Score). A result between 0 and 1 means that the outcome after surgery did not meet expectations, values equal or higher that 1 mean that expectations were matched or exceeded. A univariate and multivariate Logistic Regression Model was undertaken using this Expectation ratio and potentially related variables. Statistical analysis was performed considering 0.1 for univariate analysis and 0.05 for every other test as p-value for statistical significance. Statistical analysis was carried out using the IBM SPSS Statistics 25.0. STROBE recommendations for reporting observational studies were used for paper writing.

Results

In this study, 120 patients undergoing cervical or lumbar surgery for degenerative pathologies were analyzed. One-hundred and four patients answered both pre- and post-surgical questionnaires and 16 did not answered to post-surgical ones. The mean age at time of surgery was 55.9 ± 5.20 , varying between 23 to 88 years, and 55.0% were males. Psychiatric disorders (mainly depression) were reported by 30.0% and 48.3% of patients had completed only the first cycle of education. Table 1 shows the main demographic

features of our sample. Of the 120 patients 72.5% had symptoms for over 12 months and 27.5% had past spine surgeries for degenerative pathologies. Of our sample, 73.3% underwent lumbar surgery. Table 2 describes some clinical and surgical characteristics.

Table 3 shows pre-surgical expectation score and post-surgical score, calculated based on the Expectation survey as described above. Men (82.0%) and women (84.4%) had similar expectations. About functional status, the mean COMI score was 7.70 ± 1.55 pre-surgical and 4.90 ± 2.80 post-surgical, and p value was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).

Patient's expectations about surgery

The mean score of expectations reported by patients was quite high, $82.87\% \pm 14.57\%$, with a median of 85.60% (Figure 1). There was a moderate Spearman correlation between the ESS and age ($\rho = -0.306$, $p = 0.001$) (Figure 2) [12].

In this group of patients there were no statistically significant differences of the ESS regarding "Gender" ($p = 0.695$) or "Type of surgery" ($p = 0.572$) (Figure 3). The median expectation score of the patients submitted to cervical surgery was 84.13% (95% confidence interval: 78.93-89.33) and in lumbar patients was 82.42% (95% confidence interval: 79.31-85.53), this difference was not statistically significant ($p = 0.572$).

To understand the influence of patient characteristics in the ESS we used a Linear Regression Model. A univariate analysis was used first and variables that showed correlation with the ESS were: "Age", "Education level", "Previous surgery" and "Symptoms duration" (Table 4). In a Multivariate analysis (Table 4), "Previous surgery" and "Symptom duration" maintained their association with ESS when controlled to "Age" and "Education level". A bigger difference was observed between the group with symptoms for less than three months and the ones with more than twelve months of symptoms.

Post-surgical analysis

The mean expectation score before surgery was $82.87 \pm 14.57\%$, however the post-surgical score was significantly lower, $60.5 \pm 20.6\%$ ($p < 0.001$). We calculated the ICC, that showed absence of agreement (One-way random effects model ICC, -0.386 , $p = 0.951$), meaning that there is no consistent relation between questionnaire answers in preoperative and postoperative periods. In the univariate analysis, the only variables associated with the Expectations ratio were "Type of surgery" (Cervical vs. Lumbar) and post-surgical COMI score. However, in multivariate analysis, only "Type of Surgery" maintained a statistically significant relation (Table 5).

Comparing the Expectations ratio with the postoperative COMI score it was realized that, although a significant percentage of patients (85%) achieved an improvement in the COMI score after surgery, only 14% matched or exceeded their expectations (Table 3). In Figure 6a it is possible to visualize the rate of expectations' achievement according to "Type of Surgery". Expectations were not achieved in a higher proportion of patients submitted to lumbar surgery. However, when analyzing the change in COMI score considering "Type of surgery" the highest proportion of improved patients was after lumbar surgery (Figure 6b).

Discussion

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relation between patient's expectations regarding the outcome of the surgery and the perception of its effectiveness three months later.

Patients' expectations about surgery

Postoperatively, patients' expectations were very high, with a mean of more than 80% of expected improvement with surgery, whereas the postoperative perception of improvement was around 60%. In addition, no agreement was found between pre- and postoperative answers-to-answer, meaning that, pre-surgical expectations couldn't predict patient's perception of outcome. An association between patient's expectations and surgical outcomes has been reported [6]. Soroceanu et al. demonstrated that higher pre-surgical expectations relate with higher postoperative satisfaction rates, but unrealistic expectations tend to correlate with lower satisfaction [13]. Ronnberg et al. reported that lower expectations correlate with less good endpoints, like lower rates of returning to work after surgery [14]. Other authors argue that it is not the expectations themselves that influence satisfaction, but instead if expectations were achieved [6], [15]. Lastly, it has been demonstrated that patients' expectations could represent their motivation, which could be a predictor of better post-surgical outcomes [16].

In this sample, a moderate correlation was found between patient's age and the results of the ESS. In addition, a univariate analysis demonstrated a relation between older age and lower expectations, however in a multivariate analysis this relation was not sustained, indicating that this not an independent contributing factor to the ESS. Likewise, the relation between lower education level and lower expectations identified in the univariate analysis was not confirmed in the multivariate model.

In our population, history of previous spine surgery and longer duration of symptoms correlated with less optimistic expectations. The greatest difference was between patients with symptoms for less than three months and patients with more than twelve months of symptoms. Both, history of spine surgery and a longer course of symptoms negatively influenced how much patients expect to recover in clinical, professional and social aspects of daily living and their perception of the potential benefit of surgery. Mancuso et al. also found that patients with history of previous surgery tend to expect less improvement, however they also correlated incapacity for work to lower expectations [2], which was not verified in the current study.

Post-surgical analysis

COMI score was the validated instrument used to assess patients' outcomes in the current study and the same questionnaire was used applied before and after surgery to evaluate patients' expectations and perceived outcome.

In the univariate analysis, both "Type of surgery" and post-surgical COMI showed a statistically significant relation with the Expectations ratio. Some studies also found that functional status before surgery may be a predictor of better or worse expectations [17], however in our analysis, when considering other variables, just the type of surgery was able to predict fulfillment of expectations. Patients who

underwent lumbar surgery had a higher probability of non-fulfillment of their expectations. Nevertheless, the majority of patients submitted to lumbar spine surgery reported improvement in COMI score, meaning that the procedure contributed to an improvement on their clinical and functional status.

Overall, despite only 14% of patients reported fulfilled or exceeded expectations, 85% improved on the COMI score, three months after surgery. So, a clear mismatch seems apparent between patient satisfaction and clinical and functional outcomes. This fact may raise an interesting discussion about what the surgeon wants to achieve with surgery and about trying to fulfil both aims by modulating patient's expectations, making them more adjusted to the recovery potential, and this way improving the rate of expectations fulfillment and satisfaction with surgery.

Variables such as history of previous surgery and duration of symptoms seem to relate to worse expectations, which can translate into a reduction on patients' trust about the success of the procedure. This information should be considered when informing a patient about his/her recovery potential. The results of this study raise concerns about unrealistic expectations from the patients, that are significantly higher from what is actually achievable. This difference can possibly reflect a poor communication between doctors and patients, hence it is critical that this discrepancy is discussed with the patients, in order to adjust their expectations regarding surgery [5], [8]. Some authors advocate that a pre-surgical discussion between patient and surgeon may have an enormous influence in patient's expectations about surgery [18]. Therefore, knowledge of patient's expectations may allow physicians to become more capable of counselling and outlining more realistic common goals [19], enabling a more personalized therapeutic strategy, adapted to the patient's own clinical condition and, furthermore, avoiding utopic ideas about recovery.

Limitations

This study has a number of limitations. The Expectations questionnaires were adapted from a pilot sample and have not been submitted to population validation. In addition, the discrepancy between the number of patients submitted to lumbar surgery and cervical surgery, limits the analysis in terms of subgroup evaluation. Lastly, the follow-up time was short, despite some studies showing a good correlation between outcomes reported three months after the surgery and the ones reported at twelve months [20].

Conclusion

Addressing patient's expectations about the outcome after a spine surgery, and comparing them with the surgeon's aims and estimates, is a cornerstone to an informed decision-making and to the perceived success of the treatment. This insight may contribute to a paradigm shift, where surgery is not only focused in improving physical symptoms, but also considers the psychological, professional and social aspects that are important for patient's satisfaction.

Tables

Table 1. Demographic and clinical variables.

Variable	Value
n	120
Age (years)	55.9±5.20
Males	55%
BMI (kg/m ²)	27.8±5.20
Educational level	
First cycle*	48.3%
Second cycle*	15.8%
Third cycle*	17.5%
Secondary education	10.8%
Technical degree	0.8%
Bachelor's degree	4.2%
Master's degree	0.8%
Doctoral degree	-
Smoker	15%
IW	25%
Psychiatric disorders	30%
Previous spine surgery	27.5%

IW – Incapacity for work previous to surgery

BMI – Body mass index

*Basic education – First cycle (4th year), Second cycle (6th year), Third cycle (9th year)

Table 2. Clinical and surgical variables.

Variable	Value
Symptoms	
<3 months	9.2%
3 to 12 months	18.3%
>12 months	72.5%
Type of surgery	
Cervical	26.7%
Anterior	23.3%
Posterior	3.4%
Lumbar	73.3%
Non-instrumented	53.5%
Instrumented	20.8%

Surgery extension	
1 level	74.2%
2 levels	19.2%
3 levels	5%
4 or more	1.6%

Table 3. Expectations and function status.

	Pre-surgical	Post-surgical	P
Expectations			
Patients	82.9%	60.5%	<0.001
Men	82.0%	62.0%	
Women	84.4%	59.3%	
Functional status			
COMI	7.70±1.55	4.90±2.80	<0.001

Table 4. Linear Regression Model – Pre-surgical expectation survey score.

	Univariate		Multivariate	
	(B)	p	(B)	P
Age	-0.271	0.008**	-0.116	0.121
Gender	-3.777	0.159		
BMI	-0.312	0.225		
Smoker status	2.235	0.554		
Education level	2.283	0.011**	1.037	0.348
Occupation	0.011	0.986		
Previous surgery	-5.317	0.085**	-7.213	0.017*
Symptom duration	-4.293	0.037**	-5.581	0.008*
Pre-surgical COMI	0.911	0.269		
Psychiatric disorders	1.062	0.716		
Incapacity for work	1.736	0.586		
Surgery type	-1.864	0.144		

** Variables included in the Multivariate Model, significance level of 0.1.

* Variables with statistical significance in the Multivariate Model, level of significance of 0.05.

Table 5. Expectations Ratio (Achieved vs. Not-achieved) – Logistic regression model.

	Univariate		Multivariate	
	Exp(B)	P	Exp(B)	p
Age	1.015	0.505		
Gender	0.939	0.911		
BMI	1.017	0.739		
Smoker status	<0.001	0.999		
Education level	0.740	0.260		
Occupation	1.243	0.180		
Previous surgery	0.410	0.264		
Symptom duration	2.397	0.200		
Psychiatric disorders	1.368	0.604		
Incapacity for work	1.792	0.335		
Post-surgical COMI	0.800*	0.047*	0.807	0.064
Type of surgery	0.268	0.026*	0.282	0.037*
Entension of surgery	1.615	0.140		

* Variables with statistical significance in the multivariate model, significance level of 0.05.

Images

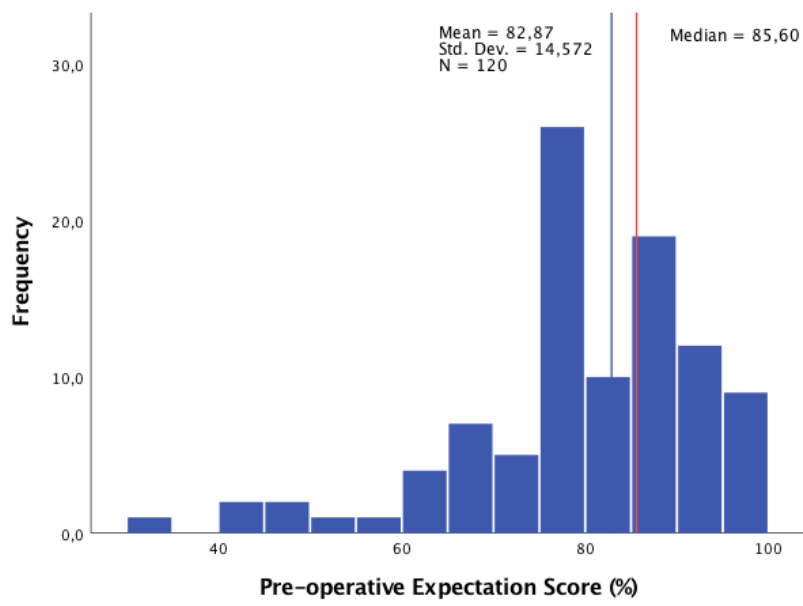


Figure 1. Expectation survey score distribution.



Figure 2. Relationship between age and pre-surgical expectation survey score.

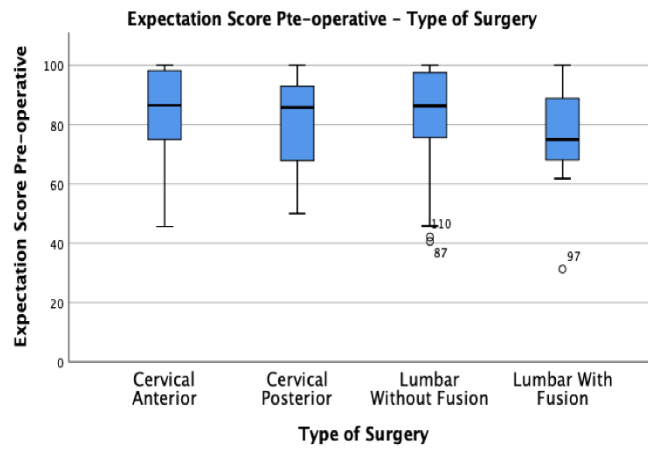


Figure 3. Expectation survey score distribution according to type of surgery.

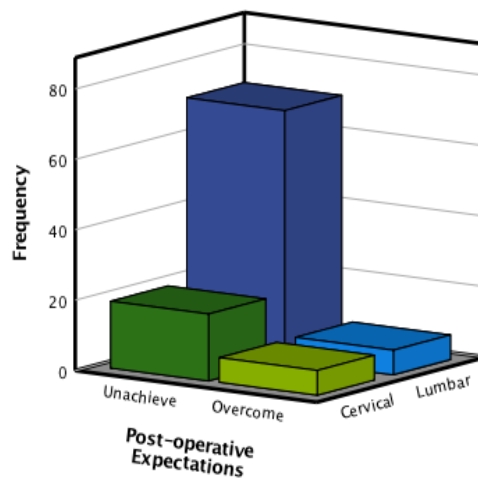


Figure 4a. Association between Type of surgery and postoperative achievement of expectations.

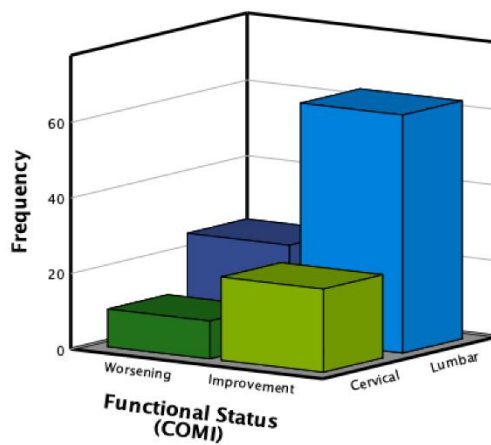


Figure 4b. Association between Type of surgery and COMI score variation.

Figura 4.

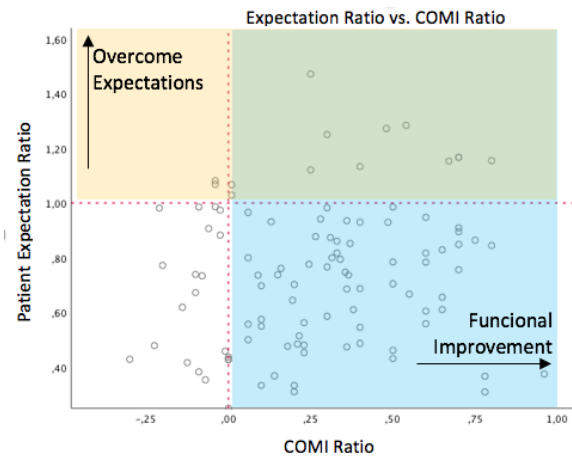


Figure 5. Expectations ratio distribution according to COMI variation.

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Anexos

1. Questionários utilizados na colheita de dados
2. Parecer da comissão de ética
3. Normas de publicação da revista European Spine Journal

QUESTIONÁRIO DE EXPECTATIVAS SOBRE A CIRURGIA À COLUNA CERVICAL

Por favor faça um **círculo** em volta do número que **melhor descreve** a sua resposta a cada questão.

Quanta melhoria espera alcançar nas seguintes áreas como resultado da sua cirurgia à coluna?

	De volta ao normal ou melhoria completa	Não completamente normal, mas...			Não tenho expectativas quanto a este ponto ou não se aplica a mim
		Grande melhoria	Moderada melhoria	Pouca melhoria	
Alívio da dor no pescoço	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio da dor no ombro, braço e mão	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio de sintomas que interferem com o sono	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a força nos braços e mãos	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio da dormência nos braços e mãos	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para empurrar ou puxar	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para usar as mãos em movimentos finos (como: abotoar uma camisa e escrever)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de posicionar a cabeça para ler	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de gerir cuidados pessoais (tais como: pentear o cabelo, escovar os dentes, barbear)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para conduzir	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir a necessidade de medicação para a dor	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de interagir com outros (tais como: atividades sociais e familiares)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a actividade sexual	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para realizar atividades diárias (tais como: tarefas domésticas, compras, recados)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de praticar exercício físico	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para praticar desportos	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Se correntemente empregado:</u> Cumprir as responsabilidades do trabalho (como: horas requeridas pelo trabalho, cumprir tarefas)	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Se correntemente com baixa médica ou desempregado devido ao problema da coluna:</u> Voltar a trabalhar	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir o stress emocional ou sentimentos tristes	1	2	3	4	5
Impedir que o meu problema de coluna piore	1	2	3	4	5
Remover as dificuldades que o problema de coluna tem sobre a minha vida	1	2	3	4	5

QUESTIONÁRIO DE EXPECTATIVAS SOBRE A CIRURGIA À COLUNA LOMBAR

Por favor faça um **círculo** em volta do número que **melhor descreve** a sua resposta a cada questão.

Quanta melhoria espera alcançar nas seguintes áreas como resultado da sua cirurgia à coluna?

	De volta ao normal ou melhoria completa	Não completamente normal, mas...			Não tenho expectativas quanto a este ponto ou não se aplica a mim
		Grande melhoria	Moderada melhoria	Pouca melhoria	
Alívio da dor	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio de sintomas que interferem com o sono	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de andar mais do que apenas alguns metros	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de estar sentado por mais de meia hora	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de permanecer de pé por mais de meia hora	1	2	3	4	5
Recuperar a força nas pernas	1	2	3	4	5
Melhoria do equilíbrio	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de subir e descer escadas	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de gerir cuidados pessoais (tais como: vestir, tomar banho)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para conduzir	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir a necessidade de medicação para a dor	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de interagir com outros (tais como: atividades sociais e familiares)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a atividade sexual	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para realizar atividades diárias (tais como: tarefas domésticas, compras, recados)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de praticar exercício físico	1	2	3	4	5
Remover restrições nas atividades (como: tornar-se mais móvel, não ter que descansar após poucos minutos)	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Se correntemente empregado: Cumprir as responsabilidades do trabalho (como: horas requeridas pelo trabalho, cumprir tarefas)</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Se correntemente com baixa médica ou desempregado devido ao problema da coluna: Voltar a trabalhar</u>	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir o stress emocional ou sentimentos tristes	1	2	3	4	5
Impedir que o meu problema de coluna piore	1	2	3	4	5
Remover as dificuldades que o problema de coluna tem sobre a minha vida	1	2	3	4	5

QUESTIONÁRIO DE SATISFAÇÃO SOBRE A CIRURGIA À COLUNA CERVICAL

Por favor faça um **círculo** em volta do número que **melhor descreve** a sua resposta a cada questão.
Como classifica o resultado da sua cirurgia à coluna em relação aos seguintes pontos?

	De volta ao normal ou melhoria completa	Não completamente normal, mas...			Este ponto não se aplica a mim
		Grande melhoria	Moderada melhoria	Pouca melhoria	
Alívio da dor no pescoço	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio da dor no ombro, braço e mão	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio de sintomas que interferem com o sono	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a força nos braços e mãos	1	2	3	4	5
Alívio da dormência nos braços e mãos	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para empurrar ou puxar	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para usar as mãos em movimentos finos (como: abotoar uma camisa e escrever)	1	2	3	4	5
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Melhorar a capacidade para conduzir	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir a necessidade de medicação para a dor	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de interagir com outros (tais como: atividades sociais e familiares)	1	2	3	4	5
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Melhorar a capacidade de praticar exercício físico	1	2	3	4	5
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<u>Se correntemente empregado:</u> Cumprir as responsabilidades do trabalho (como: horas requeridas pelo trabalho, cumprir tarefas)	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Se correntemente com baixa médica ou desempregado devido ao problema da coluna:</u> Voltar a trabalhar	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir o stress emocional ou sentimentos tristes	1	2	3	4	5
Impedir que o meu problema de coluna piore	1	2	3	4	5
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QUESTIONÁRIO DE SATISFAÇÃO SOBRE A CIRURGIA À COLUNA LOMBAR

Por favor faça um **círculo** em volta do número que **melhor descreve** a sua resposta a cada questão.
Como classifica o resultado da sua cirurgia à coluna em relação aos seguintes pontos?


	De volta ao normal ou melhoria completa	Não completamente normal, mas...			Este ponto não se aplica a mim
		Grande melhoria	Moderada melhoria	Pouca melhoria	
Alívio da dor	1	2	3	4	5
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Melhorar a capacidade de andar mais do que apenas alguns metros	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de estar sentado por mais de meia hora	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de permanecer de pé por mais de meia hora	1	2	3	4	5
Recuperar a força nas pernas	1	2	3	4	5
Melhoria do equilíbrio	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de subir e descer escadas	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de gerir cuidados pessoais (tais como: vestir, tomar banho)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para conduzir	1	2	3	4	5
Reduzir a necessidade de medicação para a dor	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de interagir com outros (tais como: atividades sociais e familiares)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a atividade sexual	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade para realizar atividades diárias (tais como: tarefas domésticas, compras, recados)	1	2	3	4	5
Melhorar a capacidade de praticar exercício físico	1	2	3	4	5
Remover restrições nas atividades (como: tornar-se mais móvel, não ter que descansar após poucos minutos)	1	2	3	4	5
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Reduzir o stress emocional ou sentimentos tristes	1	2	3	4	5
Impedir que o meu problema de coluna piore	1	2	3	4	5
Remover as dificuldades que o problema de coluna tem sobre a minha vida	1	2	3	4	5

Unidade de Investigação

Tomei conhecimento. Nada a opor.


17 de Dezembro de 2018

A Coordenadora da Unidade de Investigação


(Prof.ª Doutora Ana Azevedo)

n.º 2891/18



DIRECÇÃO CLÍNICA
Aprovado. Ao CA. 19/12/2018

(Prof.ª Doutora Ana Azevedo)

PEDIDO DE AUTORIZAÇÃO

Realização de Investigação

Exmo. Senhor Presidente do Conselho de Administração
do Centro Hospitalar de São João

Nome do Investigador Principal:

Joana Araújo de Azevedo

Título da Investigação:

Expectations in surgery for degenerative pathology of the spine:
differences between patient and surgeon

Pretendo realizar no(s) Serviço(s) de:

Neurocirurgia

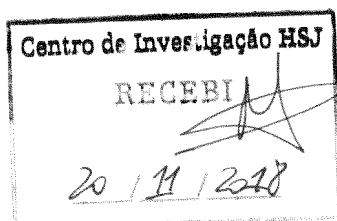
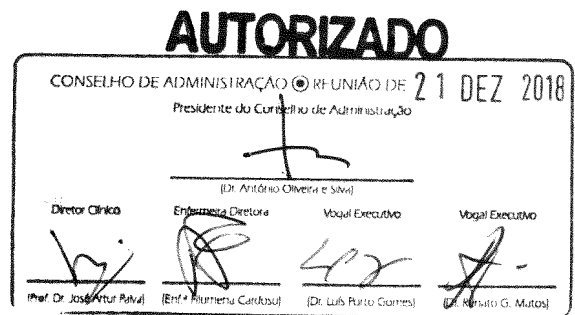
a investigação em epígrafe, solicito a V. Exa., na qualidade de Investigador/Promotor, autorização para a sua efetivação.

Para o efeito, anexo toda a documentação referida no dossier da Comissão de Ética do Centro Hospitalar de São João/Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto respeitante à investigação, à qual enderecei pedido de apreciação e parecer.

Com os melhores cumprimentos.

O Investigador/Promotor

Porto, 18 de Setembro de 2018. joana Araújo de Azevedo
assinatura





Parecer da Comissão de Ética para a Saúde do
Centro Hospitalar de São João / Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto

Título do Projecto: Expectations in surgery for degenerative pathology of the spine: differences between patient and surgeon.

Nome da Investigadora Principal: Joana Araújo de Azevedo, aluna do Mestrado Integrado em Medicina da FMUP.

Onde decorre o Estudo: No Serviço de Neurocirurgia do CHUSJ. Dispõe de autorização do Prof. Rui Vaz. O profissional de ligação será o Dr. Pedro Santos Silva, neurocirurgião do CHUSJ.

Objectivos do Estudo: Estudo observacional com intervenção cujo objectivo principal é determinar as expectativas pré-cirúrgicas dos doentes submetidos a cirurgia por patologia degenerativa da coluna vertebral (cervical e lombar) e compará-las com os resultados da intervenção, 3 meses após a cirurgia. Uma análise idêntica será realizada em relação às expectativas dos profissionais.

O estudo será realizado no âmbito do Mestrado Integrado em Medicina da FMUP, sob orientação do Dr. Pedro Santos Silva.

Concepção e Pertinência do estudo: Para o efeito, está prevista a realização de questionários anonimizados aos doentes, dos quais se anexam as respetivas cópias.

Benefício/risco: Não existem riscos ou benefícios previstos para os participantes, com exceção do tempo despendido na resposta aos questionários.

Confidencialidade dos dados: Os dados dos doentes e as respostas aos questionários serão tratados com respeito pela confidencialidade.

Respeito pela liberdade e autonomia do sujeito de ensaio: Está prevista a obtenção consentimento informado, o qual é acompanhado de uma informação escrita para os participantes.

Curriculum da investigadora: Adequado à investigação.

Data previsível da conclusão do estudo: janeiro de 2020.

Conclusão: Proponho um parecer favorável à realização deste projeto de investigação.

Porto, 19 de outubro de 2018

O Relator da CES, Prof. Manuel Pestana



Questionário para submissão de Investigação

Exmo. Sr. Presidente da Comissão de Ética do Centro Hospitalar de São João/
Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto,

Pretendo realizar a investigação infracitada, solicito a V. Exa., na qualidade de Investigador, a sua apreciação e a elaboração do respetivo parecer. Para o efeito, anexo toda a documentação requerida.

IDENTIFICAÇÃO DO ESTUDO

Título da investigação: Expectations in surgery for degenerative pathology of the spine: differences between patient and surgeon

Nome do investigador: Joana Araújo de Azevedo

Endereço eletrónico: joana.araujo.azevedo@gmail.com

Contacto telefónico: 917425871

Caracterização da investigação:

Estudo retrospectivo

Estudo observacional

Estudo prospetivo

Inquérito

Outro. Qual? _____

Tipo de investigação:

Com intervenção

Sem intervenção

Formação do investigador em boas práticas clínicas (GCP): Sim Não

Promotor (se aplicável): _____

Nome do orientador de dissertação/tese (se aplicável): Pedro dos Santos Silva

Endereço eletrónico: pedrodossantosilva@gmail.com

Local/locais onde se realiza a investigação: Departamento de neurocirurgia do Centro Hospitalar Universitário S. João

Data prevista para início: 1 / 11 / 2018

Data prevista para o término: 31 / 1 / 2020

PROTOCOLO DO ESTUDO

Síntese dos objetivos:

Este estudo pretende determinar as expectativas pré-cirúrgicas dos doentes submetidos a cirurgia por patologia degenerativa da coluna vertebral e compará-las com os resultados da cirurgia. Esperamos ainda encontrar alguma relação entre as expectativas dos médicos e dos doentes e tentar entender quais das opiniões se assemelham mais ao resultado pós-cirúrgico observado. Por fim, iremos ainda procurar estabelecer uma relação entre melhores ou piores expectativas e os anos de experiência de cada médico.

Fundamentação ética (ganhos em conhecimento/ inovação; ponderação benefícios/ riscos):

Este estudo é meramente observacional e os participantes não serão sujeitos a nenhum risco e não lhes será causado qualquer dano físico ou moral. Este estudo é desenvolvido com o sentido de permitir uma melhor prática clínica por parte dos médicos responsáveis, permitindo aos médicos e doentes uma tomada de decisão mais informada e consciente. Acreditamos que o conhecimento das expectativas dos doentes possa melhorar a informação pré-operatória prestada pelos cirurgiões aos doentes e a melhorar o grau de satisfação com o resultado da cirurgia.

CONFIDENCIALIDADE

De que forma é garantida a anonimização dos dados recolhidos de toda a informação?

Os inquéritos preenchidos pelos doentes e os dados fornecidos serão apenas visualizados pelos investigadores responsáveis pelo estudo.

O investigador necessita ter acesso a dados do processo clínico? Sim Não

Está previsto o registo de imagem ou som dos participantes? Sim Não

Se sim, está prevista a destruição deste registo após o sua utilização? Sim Não

CONSENTIMENTO

O estudo implica recrutamento de:

Doentes: Sim Não Voluntários saudáveis: Sim Não

Menores de 18 anos: Sim Não

Outras pessoas sem capacidade do exercício de autonomia: Sim Não

A investigação prevê a obtenção de Consentimento Informado: Sim Não

Se não, referir qual o fundamento para a isenção:

Existe informação escrita aos participantes: Sim Não

PROPRIEDADE DOS DADOS

A investigação e os seus resultados são propriedade intelectual de:

Investigador Promotor Ambos Serviço onde é realizado

Não aplicável

Outro: _____

BENEFÍCIOS, RISCOS E CONTRAPARTIDAS PARA OS PARTICIPANTES

Benefícios previsíveis:

Este estudo poderá ter benefícios a nível da prática clínica dos médicos responsáveis pelos doentes, podendo eventualmente garantir um atendimento médico e terapêutico mais personalizado.

Riscos/incómodos previsíveis:

Nenhuns.

São dadas contrapartidas aos participantes:

· pela participação Sim Não Não aplicável

· pelas deslocações Sim Não Não aplicável

· pelas faltas ao emprego Sim Não Não aplicável

· por outras perdas e danos Sim Não Não aplicável

CUSTOS / PLANO FINANCEIRO

Os custos da investigação são suportados por:

Investigador Promotor Serviço onde é realizado

Não aplicável

Outro: _____

Existe protocolo financeiro? Sim Não

LISTA DE DOCUMENTOS ANEXOS

- Pedido de autorização ao Presidente do Conselho de Administração do Centro Hospitalar de São João (se aplicável)
- Pedido de autorização à Diretora da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto (se aplicável)
- Protocolo do estudo
- Declaração do Diretor de Serviço onde decorre o estudo
(sendo um estudo na área de enfermagem deve anexar também a concordância da chefia de enfermagem)
- Profissional de ligação
- Informação dos orientadores
- Informação ao participante
- Modelo de consentimento
- Instrumentos a utilizar (inquéritos, questionários, escalas, p.ex.): Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery Expectation Survey e Lumbar/Cervi
- Curriculum Vitae abreviado (máx. 3 páginas)
- Protocolo financeiro
- Outros:

COMPROMISSO DE HONRA E DECLARAÇÃO DE INTERESSES

Declaro por minha honra que as informações prestadas neste questionário são verdadeiras. Mais declaro que, durante o estudo, serão respeitadas as recomendações constantes da Declaração de Helsínquia (1960 e respetivas emendas), e da Organização Mundial da Saúde, Convenção de Oviedo e das "Boas Práticas Clínicas" (GCP/ICH) no que se refere à experimentação que envolve seres humanos. Aceito, também, a recomendação da CES de que o recrutamento para este estudo se fará junto de doentes que não tenham participado em outro estudo, nos últimos três meses. Comprometo-me a entregar à CES o relatório final da investigação, assim que concluído.

Porto, 18 de Setembro de 2018

Nome legível: Joana Araújo de Azevedo

Joana Araújo de Azevedo
assinatura

Parecer da Comissão de Ética do Centro Hospitalar de São João/FMUP

Emitido na reunião plenária da CE de 19 / 10 / 18

A Comissão de Ética para a Saúde
APROVA por unanimidade o parecer do
Relator, pelo que nada tem a opor à
realização deste projecto de investigação.

[Assinatura]
Prof. Doutor [Assinatura]
Presidente da Comissão de Ética

2.2. Entidade(s) que tutela(m) a investigação

Centro Hospitalar de São João

Serviço: Neurocirurgia

Universidade do Porto

Faculdade / Instituto: Faculdade de Medicina

Outra Instituição. Qual? _____

Há alguma parceria entre instituições?

Não Sim. Qual(is)? Académica

2.3. Orientador Se Aplicável

Contacto telefónico 9 2 5 8 7 8 7 0 1

Endereço eletrónico pedrodossantossilva @ gmail.com

2.4. Título provisório

Expectations in surgery for degenerative pathology of the spine:

differences between patient and surgeon

Deverá posteriormente indicar o título definitivo para emissão do Certificado de Reutilização pelo RAI - Data REuse Certificate for Research - DARE através dos contactos disponíveis no fim deste formulário.

2.5. Acesso requerido

Ficheiro

Descrição do património informacional a que pretende ter acesso, identificando a informação a obter, i.e. nome, morada, diagnóstico, idade, códigos dos distritos, entre outros.

Pretendemos aceder à história clínica e dados biopsicosociais do doente.

Consulta de processos clínicos em ambiente papel:

Bloco

Consulta Externa

Hospital de Dia

Internamento

MCDT

Urgência

Deverá anexar ficheiro(s) contendo a identificação do pretendido, i.e. números de processos, episódios, números de utente, entre outros.

Anexar ficheiro no ato de envio

Consulta de registos clínicos eletrónicos

Especificar os Sistemas de Informação:

Data previsível de fim de utilização das credenciais de acesso - -

Outro Acesso. Qual? _____

2.3. Pareceres e Autorizações

Autorização da Hierarquia

Protocolo Científico Aprovado¹

Parecer da Comissão de Ética para a Saúde (CES)¹

Parecer do Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar¹

Deverá anexar ficheiro(s) contendo cópia dos documentos referentes às opções selecionadas.

Anexar ficheiro no ato de envio

¹ Obrigatório quando aplicável.

3. Observações Preencha à medida for útil

4. Aceitação dos Termos e Condições da Reutilização

Cumulativamente com as obrigações decorrentes da lei já citada (n.º 2 e 3 do artigo 21 e o n.º 1 e 2 do artigo 12, ambos da Lei n.º 26/2016, de 22 de agosto) ao submeter o presente pedido concordo e fico ainda vinculado aos seguintes termos e condições:

- Comprometo-me a manter confidencial toda a informação à qual vou ter acesso;
- Não vou elaborar registos, susceptíveis de identificar ou tornar identificável a identidade das pessoas a quem os mesmos dizem respeito;
- Não vou elaborar, nem ficar na posse, de cópias de bases de dados utilizadas na recolha de informação;
- Comprometo-me a obter junto da Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD) as necessárias autorizações, para eventuais bases de dados que venha a conceber e utilizar no âmbito da presente investigação;
- Comprometo-me a devolver ao Centro Hospitalar de São João, na pessoa do seu Diretor Clínico, as bases de dados e o resultado da investigação;
- Comprometo-me a ocultar os elementos de identificação da(s) pessoa(s) a quem os registos digam respeito, em futuras e eventuais publicações de resultados;
- Comprometo-me a consultar os processos clínicos nas instalações que me forem indicadas para o efeito;
- Comprometo-me a obter os necessários pareceres, quer da Comissão de Ética do Hospital, quer do Centro de Epidemiologia Hospitalar, sempre que necessário;
- Comprometo-me a citar as fontes sempre que publicitar o trabalho de investigação independentemente de requerer a Certidão de Reutilização (DARE) (Data REUse Certificate for Research - DARE);
- Tomei conhecimento, que a violação de qualquer dos compromissos aqui assumidos, resultará no apuramento de responsabilidades disciplinares, civis e penais e ainda, à impossibilidade futura de aceder a informação de saúde para fins de investigação.

5. Decisão do investigador sobre requerer a DARE Preenchimento Obrigatório

Pretendo desde já requerer a Certidão de Reutilização (DARE) cujo sentido, valor e significado consultei em <http://portal-chsj.min-saude.pt/pages/710>.

Não pretendo requerer a Certidão de Reutilização (DARE) cujo sentido, valor e significado consultei em <http://portal-chsj.min-saude.pt/pages/710>.

6. Assinatura

Nota 1: Se o presente pedido for submetido eletronicamente ou faz assinatura digital qualificada; ou posteriormente vem ao Centro Hospitalar de São João exibir o seu documento de identificação pessoal; ou no âmbito do seu espaço de liberdade e como manifestação expressa do seu consentimento envia cópia do referido documento, neste caso, concluído o processo ser-lhe-á devolvido ou eliminada a cópia do documento de identificação pessoal, conforme as indicações que dá.

Nota 2: Se o presente pedido for entregue presencialmente, assina e exibe o documento de identificação a quem recebe o pedido.

Data | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | - | 0 | 9 | - | 1 | 8 |

Joana Araújo de Azevedo
Investigador Principal

Em caso de dúvida no preenchimento contacte através dos endereços eletrónicos
rai.reutilizacao.id@chsj.min-saude.pt ou ruiguimaraes@chsj.min-saude.pt
ou pelos números de telemóvel 962 204 194 ou 918 880 299

SUBMETER

Normas de submissão de artigos da revista

European Spine Journal

Link de acesso às normas de submissão da revista:

https://www.springer.com/journal/586/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors_References

Instructions for Authors

Types of papers:

- Original articlesText: limit of 2,500 words, abstract: 150 to 250 words, references: limit of 25
- Review articles/meta-analysisText: limit of 3,500 words, abstract, references: 50 to 70
- Letters to Editor/Reviewer's CommentsText: limit of 500 words, references: 4
- Case reportsPublished online only

Editorial procedure

Double-blind peer review

This journal follows a double-blind reviewing procedure. Authors are therefore requested to submit:

- A blinded manuscript without any author names and affiliations in the text or on the title page. Self-identifying citations and references in the article text should be avoided.
- A separate title page, containing title, all author names, affiliations, and the contact information of the corresponding author. Any acknowledgements, disclosures, or funding information should also be included on this page.

European Spine Journal Grand Rounds submission.

Manuscripts for the European Spine Journal Grand Rounds should be structured as follows:

- Number of pages: maximum 20 pages
- Separate title page including a concise and informative title, the name(s), affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s), the telephone and fax numbers and the e-mail address of the corresponding author.

The manuscript should include:

- Title
- Abstract: Between 150-350 words: This should be a comprehensive summary of the case presented, outlining the features that justify its inclusion as a European Spine Journal Grand Rounds Case.
- Key words: Following the abstract up to 5 key words should be given for subject indexing.
- Case presentation: The Grand Rounds should always start with a case presentation or an interview reflecting a typical patient encounter (one paragraph only).
- Diagnostic imaging section: This should provide a minimum number of clinical photos or radiographs that illustrate the case before any intervention.
- Historical review of the condition, epidemiology, diagnosis, pathology, differential diagnosis.
- Rationale for treatment and evidence-based literature: Please provide the reader with the classic treatment options, their rationale and the evidence-based literature on the treatment. Then explain your treatment rationale.

- Procedure (surgery, intervention): Please restrict this section to the most relevant part of the surgery and/or treatment.
- Procedure imaging section: This should provide a minimum number of clinical photos or radiographs that illustrate the procedure done.
- Outcome, follow-up: A minimum follow-up of 1-2 years (depending on the pathology) is required for any case submitted to Grand Rounds.
- References: A maximum of 10-20 references should be provided, styled according to the instructions to authors of the European Spine Journal.
- High quality portrait photo of the first author (will be published along with the article).

Following submission your paper will be peer reviewed. Upon acceptance of your manuscript it will be sent to an expert in the field for discussion.

Please note:

You do not have to submit a discussion section, this will be done by the expert.

Awards

Max Aebi European Spine Journal Award

Each paper dealing with **clinical sciences** qualifies automatically for the **Max Aebi European Spine Journal Award** of 20.000 Euro as soon as it has been published. The winning paper is selected at the end of each academic year. The award is presented at the forthcoming EuroSpine meeting and at least one author of the winning paper must attend that meeting at his/her own expense in order to present the paper from the podium and receive the award.

GRAMMER European Spine Journal Award

Each paper dealing with **basic science** qualifies automatically for the **GRAMMER European Spine Journal Award** of 20.000 Euro as soon as it has been published. The winning paper is selected at the end of each academic year. The award is presented at the forthcoming EuroSpine meeting and at least one author of the winning paper must attend that meeting at his/her own expense in order to present the paper from the podium and receive the award.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscript Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

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Please follow the hyperlink "Submit online" on the right and upload all of your manuscript files following the instructions given on the screen.

Please ensure you provide all relevant editable source files. Failing to submit these source files might cause unnecessary delays in the review and production process.

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Authors are requested to submit a maximum number of three mandatory article slides together with their manuscript. The article slides are made freely available online for everyone, immediately upon publication. Unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided appropriate credit is given to the original author(s) and the source, is permitted.

Title page

Title Page

Please use this **template title page** for providing the following information.

The title page should include:

- The name(s) of the author(s)
- A concise and informative title
- The affiliation(s) of the author(s), i.e. institution, (department), city, (state), country
- A clear indication and an active e-mail address of the corresponding author
- If available, the 16-digit ORCID of the author(s)

If address information is provided with the affiliation(s) it will also be published.

For authors that are (temporarily) unaffiliated we will only capture their city and country of residence, not their e-mail address unless specifically requested.

Abstract

Please provide a structured abstract of 150 to 250 words which should be divided into the following sections:

- Purpose (stating the main purposes and research question)
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion

For life science journals only (when applicable)

Trial registration number and date of registration

Trial registration number, date of registration followed by "retrospectively registered"

Keywords

Please provide 4 to 6 keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Declarations

All manuscripts must contain the following sections under the heading 'Declarations'.

If any of the sections are not relevant to your manuscript, please include the heading and write 'Not applicable' for that section.

To be used for life science journals + articles with biological applications

Funding (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported)

Conflicts of interest/Competing interests (include appropriate disclosures)

Ethics approval (include appropriate approvals or waivers)

Consent to participate (include appropriate statements)

Consent for publication (include appropriate statements)

Availability of data and material (data transparency)

Code availability (software application or custom code)

Authors' contributions (optional: please review the submission guidelines from the journal whether statements are mandatory)

Please see the relevant sections in the submission guidelines for further information as well as various examples of wording. Please revise/customize the sample statements according to your own needs.

Important notes:

- To increase the searchability and, therefore, the chances of citation of your article the subject of your article should be mentioned within the first three words of the title. Please use standard expressions.

Text

Text Formatting

Manuscripts should be submitted in Word.

- Use a normal, plain font (e.g., 10-point Times Roman) for text.
- Use italics for emphasis.
- Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.
- Do not use field functions.
- Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.
- Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.
- Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.
- Save your file in docx format (Word 2007 or higher) or doc format (older Word versions).

Manuscripts with mathematical content can also be submitted in LaTeX.

Headings

Please use no more than three levels of displayed headings.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter.

Footnotes

Footnotes can be used to give additional information, which may include the citation of a reference included in the reference list. They should not consist solely of a reference citation, and they should never include the bibliographic details of a reference. They should also not contain any figures or tables.

Footnotes to the text are numbered consecutively; those to tables should be indicated by superscript lowercase letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data). Footnotes to the title or the authors of the article are not given reference symbols.

Always use footnotes instead of endnotes.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments of people, grants, funds, etc. should be placed in a separate section on the title page. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

Important notes:

- The methods section needs to start with a clear hypothesis. In case of a comparative study an alternative hypothesis should be described as well. For prospective studies a sample size calculation should be included as well as a description of the estimated difference in primary outcome.
- Statistical methods need to be described within the methods section. The statistical program must be described but also the tests that are used and for which purpose.
- When comparing different treatment options the focus should be not on the statistically significant difference but on the minimal clinically important difference. The authors have to define this especially for the primary outcome. The clinical relevance of an article will be rated using this difference.
- If a statistically significant difference is observed without reaching minimal clinically important difference, this must be clearly stated in the conclusion. Any suggestive interpretations (“a trend is seen”, “promising”, “might be”, etc.) that is not based on the results of the study are not allowed.
- The conclusions should be clear statements reflecting the results of your study. Expressions like “more studies are needed” are unfit for the European Spine Journal, since they are meaningless.
- Research should be published according to internationally accepted guidelines. For reporting randomised controlled trials the Consort principles should be followed, for systematic reviews and meta- analyses the Prisma statement, and for observational studies the STROBE statement. The used guideline or statement needs to be described in the Methods section.

References

Citation

Reference citations in the text should be identified by numbers in square brackets. Some examples:

1. Negotiation research spans many disciplines [3].
2. This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman [5].
3. This effect has been widely studied [1-3, 7].

Reference list

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list.

The entries in the list should be numbered consecutively.

- Journal article
Gamelin FX, Baquet G, Berthoin S, Thevenet D, Nourry C, Nottin S, Bosquet L (2009) Effect of high intensity intermittent training on heart rate variability in prepubescent children. *Eur J Appl Physiol* 105:731-738. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00421-008-0955-8>
Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “et al” in long author lists will also be accepted:
Smith J, Jones M Jr, Houghton L et al (1999) Future of health insurance. *N Engl J Med* 965:325–329
- Article by DOI
Slifka MK, Whitton JL (2000) Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *J Mol Med*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s001090000086>
- Book
South J, Blass B (2001) *The future of modern genomics*. Blackwell, London
- Book chapter
Brown B, Aaron M (2001) The politics of nature. In: Smith J (ed) *The rise of modern genomics*, 3rd edn. Wiley, New York, pp 230-257
- Online document
Cartwright J (2007) Big stars have weather too. IOP Publishing PhysicsWeb. <http://physicsweb.org/articles/news/11/6/16/1>. Accessed 26 June 2007
- Dissertation
Trent JW (1975) *Experimental acute renal failure*. Dissertation, University of California

Always use the standard abbreviation of a journal’s name according to the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations, see

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If you are unsure, please use the full journal title.

For authors using EndNote, Springer provides an output style that supports the formatting of in-text citations and reference list.

Authors preparing their manuscript in LaTeX can use the bibtex file spbasic.bst which is included in Springer's LaTeX macro package.

Tables

- All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- For each table, please supply a table caption (title) explaining the components of the table.
- Identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption.
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.

Artwork and Illustrations Guidelines

Electronic Figure Submission

- Supply all figures electronically.
- Indicate what graphics program was used to create the artwork.
- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; for halftones, please use TIFF format. MSOffice files are also acceptable.
- Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.
- Name your figure files with "Fig" and the figure number, e.g., Fig1.eps.

Line Art

- Definition: Black and white graphic with no shading.
- Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible at final size.
- All lines should be at least 0.1 mm (0.3 pt) wide.
- Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.
- Vector graphics containing fonts must have the fonts embedded in the files.

Halftone Art

- Definition: Photographs, drawings, or paintings with fine shading, etc.
- If any magnification is used in the photographs, indicate this by using scale bars within the figures themselves.
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- Definition: a combination of halftone and line art, e.g., halftones containing line drawing, extensive lettering, color diagrams, etc.
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Color Art

- Color art is free of charge for online publication.
- If black and white will be shown in the print version, make sure that the main information will still be visible. Many colors are not distinguishable from one another when converted to black and white. A simple way to check this is to make a xerographic copy to see if the necessary distinctions between the different colors are still apparent.
- If the figures will be printed in black and white, do not refer to color in the captions.
- Color illustrations should be submitted as RGB (8 bits per channel).

Figure Lettering

- To add lettering, it is best to use Helvetica or Arial (sans serif fonts).
- Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 2–3 mm (8–12 pt).

- Variance of type size within an illustration should be minimal, e.g., do not use 8-pt type on an axis and 20-pt type for the axis label.
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- Do not include titles or captions within your illustrations.

Figure Numbering

- All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- Figure parts should be denoted by lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.).
- If an appendix appears in your article and it contains one or more figures, continue the consecutive numbering of the main text. Do not number the appendix figures, "A1, A2, A3, etc." Figures in online appendices (Electronic Supplementary Material) should, however, be numbered separately.

Figure Captions

- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.
- Figure captions begin with the term Fig. in bold type, followed by the figure number, also in bold type.
- No punctuation is to be included after the number, nor is any punctuation to be placed at the end of the caption.
- Identify all elements found in the figure in the figure caption; and use boxes, circles, etc., as coordinate points in graphs.
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Please refer to the instructions on the right of this page.

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- Name the files consecutively, e.g. "ESM_3.mpg", "ESM_4.pdf".

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Accessibility

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Authors must indicate whether or not they have a financial relationship with the organization that sponsored the research. They should also state that they have full control of all primary data and that they agree to allow the journal to review their data if requested.

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DNA and RNA sequencing data	NCBI Trace Archive NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA)
Genetic polymorphisms	dbSNP dbVar European Variation Archive (EVA)
Linked genotype and phenotype data	dbGAP The European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA)
Macromolecular structure	Worldwide Protein Data Bank (wwPDB) Biological Magnetic Resonance Data Bank (BMRB) Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB)
Microarray data (must be MIAME compliant)	Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) ArrayExpress
Crystallographic data for small molecules	Cambridge Structural Database

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- 3. The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- 4. Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

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- 1) made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work;
- 2) drafted the work or revised it critically for important intellectual content;
- 3) approved the version to be published; and
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When reporting a study that involved human participants, their data or biological material, authors should include a statement that confirms that the study was approved (or granted exemption) by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee (including the name of the ethics committee) and certify that the study was performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration or comparable standards, the authors must explain the reasons for their approach, and demonstrate that an independent ethics committee or institutional review board explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study. If a study was granted exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the reasons for the exemption).

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Although retrospective studies are conducted on already available data or biological material (for which formal consent may not be needed or is difficult to obtain) ethics approval may be required dependent on the law and the national ethical guidelines of a country. Authors should check with their institution to make sure they are complying with the specific requirements of their country.

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Case reports require ethics approval. Most institutions will have specific policies on this subject. Authors should check with their institution to make sure they are complying with the specific requirements of their institution and seek ethics approval where needed. Authors should be aware to secure informed consent from the individual (or parent or guardian if the participant is a minor or incapable) See also section on **Informed Consent**.

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If human cells are used, authors must declare in the manuscript: what cell lines were used by describing the source of the cell line, including when and from where it was obtained, whether the cell line has recently been authenticated and by what method. If cells were bought from a life science company the following need to be given in the manuscript: name of company (that provided the cells), cell type, number of cell line, and batch of cells.

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The trial registration number (TRN) and date of registration should be included as the last line of the manuscript abstract.

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- All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The study was approved by the Bioethics Committee of the Medical University of A (No. ...).
- This study was performed in line with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Approval was granted by the Ethics Committee of University B (Date.../No. ...).
- Approval was obtained from the ethics committee of University C. The procedures used in this study adhere to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.
- The questionnaire and methodology for this study was approved by the Human Research Ethics committee of the University of C (Ethics approval number: ...).

Examples of a retrospective study:

- Ethical approval was waived by the local Ethics Committee of University A in view of the retrospective nature of the study and all the procedures being performed were part of the routine care.
- This research study was conducted retrospectively from data obtained for clinical purposes. We consulted extensively with the IRB of XYZ who determined that our study did not need ethical approval. An IRB official waiver of ethical approval was granted from the IRB of XYZ.
- This retrospective chart review study involving human participants was in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The Human Investigation Committee (IRB) of University B approved this study.

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When biological material is donated for or data is generated as part of a research project authors should ensure, as part of the informed consent procedure, that the participants are made what kind of (personal) data will be processed, how it will be used and for what purpose. In case of data acquired via a biobank/biorepository, it is possible they apply a broad consent which allows research participants to consent to a broad range of uses of their data and samples which is regarded by research ethics committees as specific enough to be considered "informed". However, authors should always check the specific biobank/biorepository policies or any other type of data provider policies (in case of non-bio research) to be sure that this is the case.

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Summary of requirements

The above should be summarized in a statement and included on **a title page that is separate from the manuscript** with a section entitled "**Declarations**" when submitting a paper. Having all statements in one place allows for a consistent and unified review of the information by the Editor-in-Chief and/or peer reviewers and may speed up the handling of the paper. Declarations include Funding, Conflicts of

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Written informed consent was obtained from the parents.

Verbal informed consent was obtained prior to the interview.

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The authors affirm that human research participants provided informed consent for publication of the images in Figure(s) 1a, 1b and 1c.

The participant has consented to the submission of the case report to the journal.

Patients signed informed consent regarding publishing their data and photographs.

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Additional informed consent was obtained from all individual participants for whom identifying information is included in this article.

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