

Use Of Multimedia (Animated Videos) For Informed Consent And Patient Education In Neurosurgery

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Purpose:

The term "informed consent" explains the process by which a patient, before treatment, is provided comprehensive and impartial information regarding a planned operative procedure so that he/she understands the implications of the procedure before consenting. The goal of the current study was to investigate whether standard methods of consenting can be improved using a multimedia-based information program

Materials And Methods:

In a 6 month prospective study, 300 patients were randomized in two groups each with 150 patients. One group underwent through standard methods of consenting and another group informed consent was taken using a multimedia-based information program. Questionnaires were completed before surgery. These evaluated how patients perceived their own understanding of important aspects of their illness (i.e., disease, therapeutic alternatives, operation, and risks) and satisfaction with the consenting process. Patients' anxiety levels were also assessed. These questionnaires were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the multimedia-based information program for improving the consent process.

Results:

70% percent of all respondents were satisfied with the standard informed consent process whereas all respondents were satisfied with multimedia-based informed consent. However, perceived understanding of the material was significantly improved in the multimedia-based information program group ($P < 0.001$). Patients with less formal education and international patient profited particularly from the multimedia-based information program. Preoperative anxiety was relatively less in multimedia-based information program.

Conclusion:

Use of the multimedia-based program was positively evaluated by patients, and significantly improved patient's perceived understanding of their disease, its treatment and making decision about treatment option. It is, therefore,