

Perceptions and Practices Regarding the Process of Informed Consent in Surgical Patients in a Tertiary Care Hospital of a Developing Country.

Muhammad Asharib Arshad¹, Wajeeha Arshad²

1. Final Year MBBS, FMH College of Medicine and Dentistry, Lahore, Pakistan

2. Research Coordinator, Medical Research Center, Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar

1. Introduction

Informed consent prior to surgical procedures is an imperative aspect of surgery. The study was conducted to assess the perceptions of post-operative patients about the process of informed consent and to identify various factors that influence the process of informed consent.

3. Results

The mean age of patients was 36.98 ± 14.23 yrs. Consent forms were signed by 37.6% relatives, 22.8% siblings, 15.8% children, 14.9% patients themselves and 8.9% parents. Significant barriers in signing of consent form were language, better educational status and not being asked by relatives ($p < 0.05$).

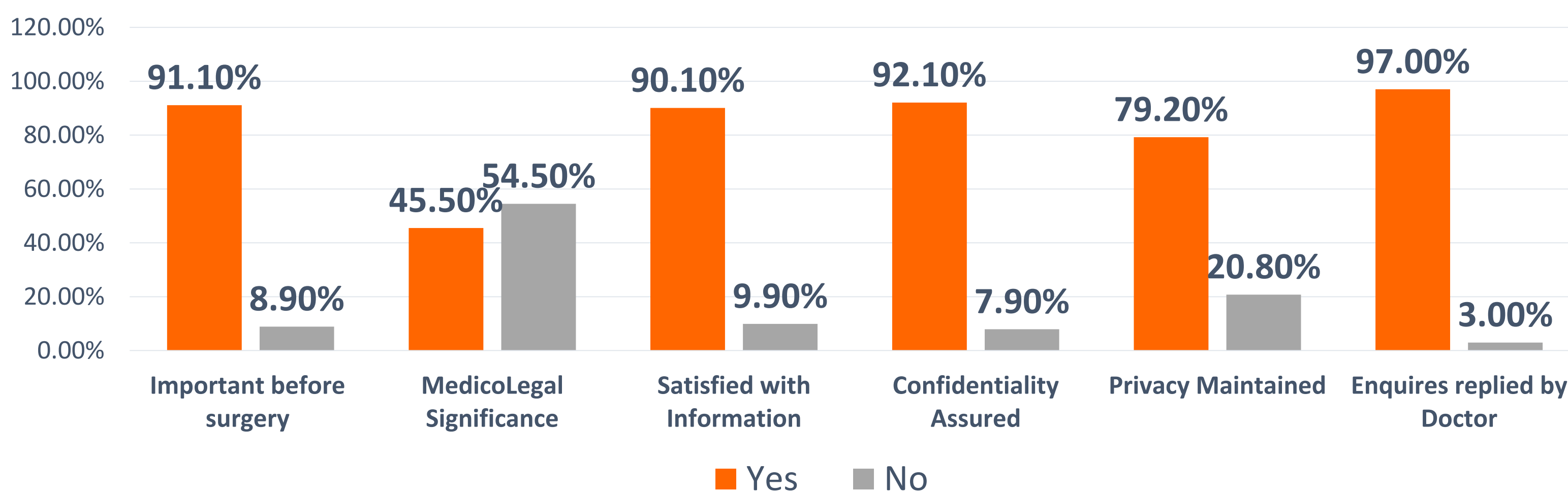


Figure 1: Perceptions related to Informed Consent

2. Methods

This cross-sectional study was carried out in a tertiary care hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. After taking consent from patients and IRB, interviews were conducted by principal investigators using a validated questionnaire from 101 patients who had undergone elective surgery.

4. Discussion

In our study, 14.85% patients signed the consent form themselves whereas in another study, 53.8% patients signed the consent form themselves. Significant barrier in the signing of consent form in another study were medical terminology and educational status.

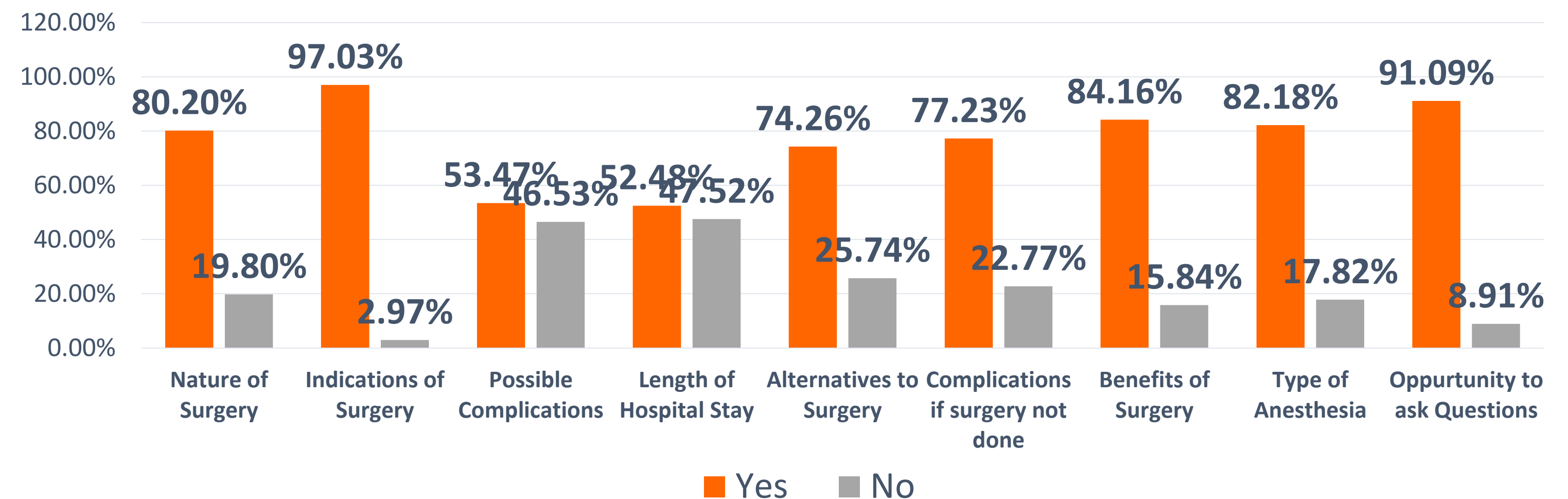


Figure 2: Characteristics of Consent

5. Conclusion

Clinicians need to inspire patients to sign the consent form themselves.

7. References

- Humayun A, Fatima N, Naqqash S, Hussain S, Rasheed A, Imtiaz H, et al. Patients' perception and actual practice of informed consent, privacy and confidentiality in general medical outpatient departments of two tertiary care hospitals of Lahore. BMC Med Ethics. 2008;9:14.
- Jafarey A. Informed consent: views from Karachi. Eastern Mediterranean health journal = La revue de sante de la Mediterranee orientale = al-Majallah al-sihhiyah li-sharq al-mutawassit. 2006;12 Suppl 1:S50-5.
- Jawaid M, Farhan M, Masood Z, Husnain S. Preoperative informed consent: is it truly informed? Iranian journal of public health. 2012;41(9):25-30.

In Collaboration with