

Patient treatment goals are not elicited during surgical consultations for diverticulitis:

Preliminary results of a qualitative study

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INTRODUCTION

- Person-centered care, which is aligned with patient goals, is a pillar of healthcare quality for older adults.
- We explored communication about patient goals during consultations for elective surgery.

METHODS

1. N = 5 patient-surgeon dyads
2. Patient interviews and audio-recordings of surgical consultations for diverticulitis
3. Thematic analysis

RESULTS

- Patients identified health and treatment goals but these were not discussed during surgical consultations.

DISCUSSION

- Surgical consultations do not include a discussion of patient goals.
- This highlights an opportunity to improve patient-surgeon communication and enhance person-centered care for older adults.

Patient health and treatment goals are not routinely discussed during surgical consultations



Patient Characteristics:

- Age range 71-82
- 100% non-Hispanic, English-speaking
- 88% Caucasian (12% prefer not to answer)
- 60% Male
- 50% Not working or volunteering

Examples of patient goals:

- *“I have grandkids that I need to see.”*
- *“I just want to be comfortable and get some energy.”*
- *“I walk everyday at the park.”*

When asked why they didn't share their goals with their surgeons, patients took a passive tone, as one stated, *“it just never came up.”*



During consultations, surgeons:

- Conducted standard informed consent discussions
- Did not elicit patient goals
- Did not discuss functional outcomes

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

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