

Analysis on the Current Situation of Patients' Understanding of Informed Consent in Obstetrics and Gynecology Surgery

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Abstract: Informed consent for surgery is a medical document that plays an important role in hospital. It can provide evidence in medical litigation. It is one of the important concepts in contemporary bioethics, which can coordinate the doctor-patient relationship in hospital work and maintain a good work order. This paper, through the study of the patients' understanding of status, and functions of informed consent in obstetrics and gynecology surgery, finds out the existing shortcomings and puts forward reasonable improvement measures, in order to provide some reference for improving future practical work, reduce unnecessary work disputes, and make patients understand their condition and treatment plan more objectively and comprehensively.

Keywords: Informed consent for surgery; Medical dispute; Doctor-patient relationship

1. Introduction

The informed consent for surgery is a written consent signed by the patient or the entrusted agent in the form of document, which has legal benefits. Medical behavior is risky, so it needs to be signed before operation. This is a procedure that patients and their families must go through before operation, and it is also a legal procedure that medicine must implement. Informed consent for surgery is very necessary. Most of the patients' family members lack professional medical knowledge. They have the right to understand the complications and risks that may occur during and after surgery. It is also the responsibility and obligation of doctors to let patients and their families know. What makes patients and their families know is not only the signature on the consent, but also the effective and full communication between doctors and patients. It can help them ultimately make the most rational choice. Only when patients really understand the informed consent can they achieve good communication, have reasonable expectations for treatment, be prepared for the operation risk, and actively cooperate with doctors for treatment, so as to maintain the normal working order of the hospital.

2. Research Status of Understanding of Informed Consent for Surgery

For a long time, our country has not paid enough attention to the preoperative signature. According to the investigation and research, the client who signs the informed consent of the operation is determined by the patient, and is also affected by the nature of the disease, economic ability and operation mode; before signing, to understand the informed consent correctly means that the patient has a direct relationship. The implementation of the informed consent and the standard filling can effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of both doctors and patients. Therefore, medical staff must realize the importance of the informed consent; the survey data also shows that although most signatories of the informed consent can understand the basic information described in the informed consent, but there are still some cases that the less educated people do not understand. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the psychological training and teach them communication skills; the study also shows that patients' understanding of the legal benefits of informed consent is very limited.

Most patients regard the informed consent for surgery as a necessary procedure for surgery. No matter whether they understand it or not, they need to sign it. In fact, they do not understand the content of the informed consent for surgery. According to this situation, medical workers have the responsibility to inform the patients and their families, protect the legitimate rights of the patients, put forward various surgical consultation knowledge

according to the condition, and make joint decisions with the patients and their families on whether to operate or not. With the development of society and the improvement of medical level, the legal awareness and medical awareness of patients and family members have gradually improved. The correct understanding of informed consent for surgery can not only protect medical workers, but also help patients to keep away from suffering and achieve harmony between doctors and patients.

3. The Understanding of the Informed Consent of the Patients in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Surgery

The questionnaire was used to investigate the operation patients in the department of obstetrics and gynecology of a hospital. Adhering to the principle of voluntary participation, the project includes the understanding of the status, scope and role of the informed consent form for operation, so as to understand the patients' understanding of the informed consent in the department of obstetrics and gynecology.

3.1. Patients' understanding of the legal status of the informed consent form

Most of the patients in obstetrics and gynecology surgery clearly know that signing the informed consent form is an essential procedure before surgery. Half of the patients think that they cannot change their mind after signing the consent paper, and the other half mistakenly think that once there is a medical accident, they will get compensation from the hospital. More than half of obstetrics and gynecology patients explicitly refuse to sign the consent form, so the operation cannot be carried out normally, and a small number of patients mistakenly think that the operation can be carried out. More than half of the patients knew that close relatives could sign on their behalf. The signing of informed consent form for surgery is not only an express provision in Chinese law, but also one of the specific manifestations of patients' right to know. According to the relevant investigation, most patients think that the informed consent form for the surgery is provided by the hospital and has no legal effect. They think that the surgical signature is only for the purpose of getting surgical treatment, not for the purpose of making a commitment to the consequences and risks of surgery. In the survey, most of the patients think that signing the informed consent for surgery is required by law, while a few patients think that signing the informed consent for surgery is a personal behavior of the hospital. After signing the consent, nearly half of the patients will be compensated in case of medical malpractice, and the other half will hold a negative view. The patient's signature on the informed consent does not mean that the medical institutions and medical staff do not have to bear the medical responsibility when there is a problem, nor does

it mean that the patient has to bear all the adverse consequences. Half of the patients clearly know that they can change their mind if they find some problems in the informed consent form before the operation, discuss with the doctor, and even change the operation method. More than half of the patients know that even if the patient is facing life-threatening, the doctor will not perform the operation without signing the informed consent.

3.2. Patients' understanding of the scope of the informed consent form

Only a few patients disagree with what the consent form says. They sign it only for letting doctors perform the operation as soon as possible. About one in five patients say they don't know what the meaning of signing the consent form is. Four fifths of patients think that as long as they can save the lives of patients, doctors can do things beyond the scope of the consent form. Most of these patients know that the operation is risky. The survey results show that most of the patients agree with the items listed in the informed consent form, and a few patients do not fully agree with the contents listed in the form. The reason for them to sign it is, on the one hand, the fear of the hospital and the doctor. They worry that their questions will affect the doctor's attitude towards themselves. On the other hand, it is because the operation cannot be carried out without signing.

In the process of medical treatment, patients and their families are almost not dissatisfied with the monopolistic decision-making behavior of doctors. The reason is that patients are unfamiliar with medical knowledge and awe doctors. Because of this, effective communication between doctors and patients is reduced, and it is difficult to realize patients' real right to know. Once a medical accident occurs in the operation and the patients find that they do not achieve their desired effect, there will be a medical dispute. In this case, the doctors should treat the patients' right to know carefully, do a more detailed work, and avoid that the patients' understanding of the operation is only one-sided.

3.3. The patients' understanding of the function of the informed consent form

The vast majority of patients think that the informed consent form is very important, and more than half of the patients think that the informed consent form can make the doctor understand the patient's demands. About one in five patients think that the role of consent form is to protect the hospital from compensation in case of medical malpractice. A small number of patients think that signing the consent is a waste of time, and the remaining patients think that the consent clearly describes what will happen to the operation. More than half of the patients say they do not know the operation methods and steps when signing the consent, and nearly half of the patients

think it is difficult to understand the contents of the informed consent form. Preoperative conversation is very important, it can let patients understand the operation method, process, complications, etc. The patients put forward their own demands and discuss with the doctors, and both sides get due respect. Only in this way can the informed consent of the operation be meaningful.

4. Influencing Factors and Improvement Measures of Patients' Understanding of the Informed Consent form in Obstetrics and Gynecology Surgery

At present, many hospitals in our country adopt the standard informed consent for surgery, which is suitable for normal adults. They insist on taking patients as the center, but there are still many patients who do not understand and refuse to sign the informed consent for surgery, let alone realize that the actual role of informed consent for surgery is to protect the interests of patients themselves. In this study, we selected a Three As hospital. The medical technology and management strictly follow the rules and regulations. Before the operation, the surgeons will communicate with the patients in person. There are still some patients who misunderstand the informed consent form. The factors that affect the gynecological patients' understanding of the informed consent form are related to their age, education level and occupation.

4.1. Factors influencing informed consent

The results show that age affects the understanding of the informed consent form. The higher the age, the lower the content approval of the operation informed consent and the lower the rate of understanding the operation through the operation informed consent. There are obvious differences between different age groups. The young patients have wide knowledge, and they are easy to accept new things and easier to understand the operation informed consent.

Education level is also an important factor influencing patients' understanding of informed consent form. Patients with different education levels have different understanding of informed consent form. There are many professional medical words in medicine, and it is difficult for patients who lack medical knowledge to understand them. Patients with high level of knowledge can have a general understanding of their disease through data query, so that they can understand the informed consent form more easily. The investigation shows that the different occupation, the different treatment cost and other factors also affect the understanding of the operation knowledge letter.

4.2. Improvement measures

The majority of gynecological surgery patients want to know their own legal rights in the operation process, but their legal knowledge is relatively limited, which is shown in the survey results. Although signing the informed consent before operation can meet the requirements of hospital management and law, but some of them may not meet the requirements of patients. It even includes operations that patients do not want to do. Many patients know that the informed consent of operation is beneficial to them, but they are not sure whether the operation can be carried out and whether their legitimate rights and interests can be protected without signing the informed consent of operation.

Most of the patients and their families think that obstetrics and gynecology surgery is a very important operation, with a sense of mystery and importance, and have psychological pressure on the signature of informed consent. Obstetrics and gynecology surgery is carried out by professional medical workers. The pre-operative conversation is for doctors to explain to patients and their families the accidents that may occur during and after the operation as well as the risk that signer should bear. If the doctor does not do a good job in effective communication, once there is an accident, it will cause medical disputes. Therefore we should pay attention to the preoperative conversation, let the patients and their families know the operation related problems, and realize good communication between doctors and patients.

The patients' right to know and the right to choose should be fully respected and they should sign the informed consent when they are fully informed. The most popular way is for the patients and their relatives to sign the informed consent together, which not only respects the patients' right to life and health, but also fully considers the opinions of their families. In addition to good medical knowledge, medical workers should also have psychological, sociological and other related knowledge, constantly improve their own quality, carefully understand the psychology of patients and their families, master communication skills, and communicate in a friendly, popular and persuasive way, so as to eliminate patients' concerns and ease patients' anxiety. For the demands and wishes of patients, we should listen carefully, behave appropriately, show full respect for patients, and provide real and effective information to patients. It is also necessary to ensure that the doctor's conversation before surgery can be fully and accurately understood by the patients and their families. Sometimes, limited by the level of education, the patients do not understand the doctor's professional terms and the risks of surgery, and the doctors have the responsibility and obligation to inform the patients and their families. In order to make patients accurately understand their condition and actively cooperate with the examination, doctors should choose the appropriate time node, use the relevant psychological

knowledge and master the art of communication. Thus they talk with patients and their families, relieve patients' ideological concerns with concise words which lets patients fully understand at the same time will not cause psychological anxiety. Doctors should strictly respect the rules and regulations of operation. For the operation with great difficulty and risk, experienced and technical doctors should operate and implement it. They should understand the relevant expenses of such operation in other hospitals, not increase the operation expenses of patients, and truthfully inform the patients and their families of the information. The improvement measures also include improving the education of medical workers. Doctors' communication skills play a vital role in preoperative conversation. Medical staff should always pay attention to their words and deeds. The relevant management departments of the hospital should also fully understand the specific situation of each medical worker, and emphasize that the medical workers should treat every patient equally to maintain a harmonious and friendly relationship between doctors and patients.

5. Conclusion

In today's patient-centered society, whether the patients themselves or their relatives sign the informed consent, the ultimate goal is to receive medical treatment better. The use of consent can effectively reduce medical disputes, and informed consent is also the specific manifes-

tation of patients' right of informed consent. In medical activities, medical workers should truthfully inform patients and their families with the patient's condition, risk, surgical measures, etc., so that patients and their families can bear the responsibility while they are informed. Through the researching on how the patients in obstetrics and gynecology surgery understand the informed consent, this paper finds that patients' effective and comprehensive understanding of the informed consent, is conducive to good communication and mutual understanding between medical workers and patients.

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