Multinational Long-term Impacts of Colectomy Surgery Among Ulcerative Colitis Patients Study (LOCUS)

Carl Brown1, Peter R. Gibson2, Alisa Hart3, Gilaad G. Kaplan4, Emily Hautamaki5, Emuella Flood6, Tao Fan5, Leah Stokes6, Kathleen Beusterien5

1 DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY, PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE – ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL, VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA; 2 DEPARTMENT OF GASTROENTEROLOGY, THE ALFRED HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE, VIC, AUSTRALIA; 3 BD UNI, ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL NW10 NHS TRUST, NORTHWICK PARK, HARROW, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM; 4 DEPARTMENTS OF MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, CALGARY, AB, CANADA; 5 OXFORD OUTCOMES INC., AN ICON PLC COMPANY, BETHESDA, MD, USA; 6 MERCK & CO., INC., WHITEHOUSE STATION, NJ, USA

Background

- Understanding the long-term outcomes of surgical interventions and their impacts on patients' health-related quality of life (HRQoL), specifically the impact of disease and treatment on the day-to-day life from the patient's point of view, can help inform both physician and patient decision making on whether or not to proceed with surgery (Knee, 2007, Limmah & Aksamit, 2009).
- In ulcerative colitis (UC), total colectomy is often presented to patients as a cure given that technically one cannot have UC without a colon.
- In reality, total colectomy is associated with numerous detriments that have not been captured well with generic measures of patient-related outcomes (PRQoL). There is a flood of post-operative complications and lifestyle changes that have caused many patients and health care providers to temper their praise of colectomy, acknowledging that it is a "deciding cure" (Arseneau et al., 2006).
- A small but significant number of patients will undergo reversal of their ileal-pouch-anal anastomosis (IPAA) procedure because of diet dissatisfaction, diet, sexual function, and work productivity (Lichtenstein et al., 2006).

Study goal

- To evaluate the long-term health-related quality of life outcomes of colectomy from the patient's perspective

Methods

Study Design

- Cross-sectional survey
- Multi-country study: Canada (6 sites), UK (3 sites), and a market research firm
- Australia (5 sites)
- Study days: June 1 - August 31, 2008
- Eligible patients at 5 UC clinical sites were invited to participate
- Survey participation: 614 respondents from 349 eligible patients (85% response rate)

Survey Content

- One-third of LOCUS patients still need to take medications to regulate bowel movements
- 33% of moderate to severe UC patients report decreased work productivity post-colectomy
- EQ-5D utility differences of 0.05 points have been found to be socially meaningful.
- One-third of patients still need to take medications to regulate bowel movements

Summary of Overall Findings: Approximately One-third of Patients Experienced Detriments in HRQoL Domains

- Approximately one-third of UC patients indicated that bowel condition had significantly higher rates of anxiety and depression.
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Results

- 33% of moderate to severe UC patients report decreased work productivity post-colectomy
- EQ-5D utility differences of 0.05 points have been found to be socially meaningful.
- One-third of patients still need to take medications to regulate bowel movements

Conclusions

- LOCUS patients experienced undesirable impacts on quality of life, including:
  - Lower HRQoL relative to general population
  - Improved emotional well-being
  - Inferior sense of body image
  - Impaired sexual functioning, particularly in men
  - Reduced fertility in both men and women
  - Decreased daily productivity
- One-third of patients still need to take medications to regulate bowel movements
- The study will help physicians and patients set reasonable expectations regarding quality of life after colectomy

Study limitations include

- The lack of post-colectomy data in the study population; thus the study can only be used to characterize the study population.
- The study was not designed to assess the impact of specific interventions.
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References

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