

VALIDITY OF RETROSPECTIVE COLLECTION OF PRE-OPERATIVE OXFORD SHOULDER SCORES

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Introduction:

Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) aim to collect health related quality of life measures directly from the patients themselves rather than subjective clinician derived scores. PROMs are routinely used to assess the outcomes of existing and new surgical interventions.

To assess the validity of post-operatively collected Oxford Shoulder Scores (OSS) estimating pre-operative status, using prospectively collected pre-operative OSS as a reference.

Methods:

29 patients undergoing elective shoulder arthroplasty for degenerative arthritis (RA and OA) were asked to complete a pre-operative OSS, post-operatively patients were asked to complete an OSS giving an estimate assessment of their pre-operative function. All patients were blinded to their original pre-operative OSS results.

Data was assumed to be non-parametrically distributed, Wilcoxon signed rank test was used to assess for significant differences between overall OSS and responses for each individual question.

Results:

Post-operative OSS were completed between 1-16 (median = 3) months after their arthroplasty procedure. Complete OSS scores were obtained for all patients, on all occasions.

There was no significant difference between pre-operative and post-operative estimates of pre-operative overall OSS ($p=0.191$), with 10/12 questions also showing no significant difference in scores ($p>0.05$). On average patients reported their pre-operative OSS to be -1.5 points lower in their post-operative estimates.

Conclusion:

Our study has demonstrated that retrospectively collected pre-operative OSS after surgical intervention in arthroplasty patients is reflective of their "true" overall pre-operative OSS scores, the mean difference of -1.5 of the post-operative OSS relative to the pre-operative OSS is within the 6.0 point mean minimally importance change (MIC) for the OSS.

Additionally, only 2 of the 12 questions comprising the OSS demonstrated significantly different answers at the two time points it was sampled in our study; "Have you been able to use a knife and fork - at the same time?" and "Could you carry a tray containing a plate of food across a room?" ($p<0.05$).

In conclusion, retrospectively collected pre-operative OSS scores up to 16-months after surgical intervention with arthroplasty procedures gives an accurate representation of patients' "true" pre-operative states.