Clinical applicability and revision of the ACaPELa questionnaire

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Introduction
- The Assessing and Caring for Patients’ Expectations in Laryngology (ACaPELa) questionnaire was created to understand patients’ thoughts and concerns and guide clinical consultation.
- As part of our standard clinical practice, all patients attending the laryngology clinic in our department complete the ACaPELa, rank ordering their expectations prior to the clinical consultation.
- Feedback received from the patients during the 2-year run of the voice clinic using the above set-up has indicated that the questionnaire was proven difficult to rank order, with patients’ finding some of the options very similar in content.

Aim
- To validate and revise ACaPELa to ensure its clinical applicability

Methods
- Prospective study
- Collection of ACaPELa replies Sept ’16 – Sept ‘17.
- Friedman statistical test to identify redundant questions and revise ACaPELa.
- Audit completion rate and patients’ satisfaction using the refined ACaPELa (ACaPELa – R) Feb - May ‘18.

Results
- 242 patients completed ACaPELa.
  - 1:7:1 female predominance. Mean age: 53 (SD 17.8)
  - 36 patients (15%) gave the same ranking in more than one, up to all questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question (Q)</th>
<th>Ranked first</th>
<th>Ranked last</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Not ranked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I want to know what is wrong with my voice</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I want to know what is wrong with my throat</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I want to know what is wrong/diagnosis</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I want to know if I have cancer</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I want to know if I have something seriously wrong</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Tell me what I can do to make my throat problem better</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Tell me how I can improve my voice/I want my voice to improve</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I want to know what the ENT team can do to make me better</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Q3 was consistently given similar ranking to Q1 and Q2 (p=0.64 and p=0.90 respectively).
- Q4 and Q5 had closely related rankings (p=0.615). Similarly, Q8 had similar rankings to Q6 and Q7 (p=0.179 and p=0.983 respectively).
- A revised questionnaire, the ACaPELa-R is introduced, from collapsing questions with non-detectable differences on rank ordering to broader themes.

ACaPELa-R questionnaire
1. I want to know what is wrong with my voice
2. I want to know what is wrong with my throat
3. I want to know if I have cancer
4. Tell me how I can improve my voice
5. Tell me what I can do to make my throat problem better

- The ACaPELa –R was audited prospectively in a cohort of 50 patients. Also assessing patients’ post-consultation satisfaction.
- Only 3 patients gave same ranking to more than one questions (6%).
- 96% (48/50) were 100% satisfied that all their questions were answered during the consultation.

Conclusions
ACaPELa-R has improved clinical applicability, facilitating rank ordering of patients’ expectations. Patient were highly satisfied that all their concerns were addressed at the end of the consultation.