

Patients' Beliefs and Perceptions About Orthopaedic Implants After Fracture Healing

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Purpose: The population bearing orthopaedic implants (OIs) is increasing due to higher rates of open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) for extremity fractures. Their beliefs and perceptions about OIs influence their demand for OI removal and their satisfaction about surgery.

Methods: An 18-item questionnaire was distributed to the follow-up patients who were treated by ORIF for limb fractures in a tertiary trauma care center. All such fractures healed without major complications.

Results: The response rate was 82.7% (830/1004). The mean follow-up was 17.23 months. 735 participants (88.6%) believed that they received ideal treatment for their fracture and 86.3% believed that OIs helped them for healing. If needed 662 (79.8%) of them were happy to undergo ORIF and 82.5% of them will recommend ORIF to their relatives. 367 participants (44.2%) believed that they have high risk for lightning attack and 18% believed they have high risk for malignant tumors due to OIs. 544 participants (65.5%) wanted to remove their OI, 48% have pain in the surgical site, 54% have limitation of movement, and 24% think it's unnatural to have OIs inside their body. 49% of participants said they didn't get enough information regarding OIs prior to surgery.

Conclusion: The majority of the study population was satisfied with OIs. A reasonable percentage of patients had misbeliefs on OIs and wanted the OI to be removed. Half the population perceived that they were not informed well about OIs and proper patient education may help to minimize patient misbeliefs.