Reviewer's report

Title: Unstated factors in orthopaedic decision-making: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 2 August 2010

Reviewer: Monica Smith

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(1) Authors should re-read and correct typos in their paper, etc, for instance the passage:
"...Subsequent interviews with patients up to three weeks after consultations gave patients the opportunity to reflect on the decisions and processes that occurred in their appointments. This approach provided Patients <<time to??>> to reflect on their consultation in some detail including any misgivings or surprise...."

(2) The authors state that "...Patients may benefit from information about the unstated, 'implicit', elements of decision-making for elective procedures (such as understanding different decisionmaking styles).
Informing patients about these implicit elements may enable them to participate more fully in shared decision-making, thus empowering patients..."

However, there is also a good body of evidence that preparing patients for their consultations, is a very effective means to improve shared decisionmaking and patient-provider relationships by enhancing communication and understanding and trust/confidence in shared decisions, and also improving both patient satisfaction and provider satisfaction. Here are some citations toward that end (search terms "consult planning", "patient decision aids", "patient coaching", etc for more cites):

(c) 2002 American Society for Clinical Oncology Consultation Planning to Help Breast Cancer Patients Prepare for Medical Consultations: Effect on Communication and Satisfaction for Patients and Physicians By Karen R. Sepucha, Jeffrey K. Belkora, Stephanie Mutchnick, Laura J. Esserman

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Editorials Coaching to support patients in making decisions

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests