

Results

Some common themes were identified. These women's concerns for spread and recurrence of their disease appeared to override their concerns for any particular type of treatment. They had no age-specific fears for undergoing operative procedures. Their social circumstances did not play a part in any treatment decisions. Many were happy to be passive information seekers and did not question nor clarify information given. Much of the information was either forgotten or interpreted subjectively. They relied heavily on 'expert' advice and were grateful regardless of outcome.

Conclusions

It is important for medical professionals to ensure that their consultations with older women are adapted to reflect the passive acceptance of expert advice in this age group. The perception that a treatment choice has been offered may not be appreciated nor understood by older women. For older women, we need to be aware that their concerns are not necessarily related to the degree of medical intervention but rather to ensuring that their quality of life remains unaffected. We need to ensure that these women understand the long-term implications of their treatment choices, especially as many of them may not voice their concerns. Many of them may think they have little time left but in an ageing population, quality of life is an important factor in disease management across all surgical specialties.

e-Letters – new additions

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Since the last issue of the Annals, the following letters have been published on our website
<<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/publications/eletters/>>:

- An effective and easy method of splitting damp plaster of paris casts – 2 responses
- The management of aspirin in transurethral prostatectomy: current practice in the UK – 1 response
- Experiential Learning and the Surgical Trainee
- What's in a name? – 1 response
- Origin of the specialists – 2 responses

New on-line only case reports

You can access the case reports by using your College-issued Athens username and password to enter the members' area of the College website (<www.rcseng.ac.uk/members/publications/index_html>) and following the link to the Annals.

Alternatively, if you type the following URL into the address bar of your web browser <<http://dx.doi.org/>> and then enter the DOI in the dialogue box presented on this web page, you will be taken directly to the abstract of the article.

- Case report:** [Delayed diagnosis of infarcted small bowel due to right-sided Bochdalek hernia](#)
ME OWEN, GC ROWLEY, MJ TIGHE, PN WAKE doi 10.1308/147870807X160407
- Case report:** [Aortic injury using the Hasson trocar: a case report and review of the literature](#)
CM PRING doi 10.1308/147870807X160416
- Case report:** [Non-classical presentation of congenital cholesteatoma](#)
VR MAHANTA, FJ UDDIN, S MOHAN, JF SHARP doi 10.1308/147870807X160425
- Case report:** [Prolonged postoperative altered mental status after methylene blue infusion during parathyroidectomy: a case report and review of the literature](#)
MAS KHAN, AP NORTH, DR CHADWICK doi 10.1308/147870807X160434
- Case report:** [Allergy to technetium-labelled nanocolloidal albumin for sentinel node identification](#)
DENNIS W CHICKEN, REZA MANSOURI, PETER J ELL, MOHAMMED RS KESHTGAR doi 10.1308/147870807X160443
- Case report:** [An unusual hernia complication: a late presentation](#)
NEERAJ PUROHIT, ROSHAN DRABU, JOHN LANKESTER doi 10.1308/147870807X160452
- Case report:** [Laparoscopic cholecystectomy in situs inversus totalis with left-sided gall bladder](#)
SENTHIL KUMAR, GIUSEPPE FUSAI doi 10.1308/147870807X160461