

Supplementary File 2 – Semi-structured interview guide for healthcare professionals

Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to be part of this study exploring the educational needs of rectal cancer survivors with Low Anterior Resection Syndrome (or LARS). You've been given our educational booklet that we created for patients to use as part of an intervention in a randomized controlled trial, and have agreed to participate in a brief phone interview.

The phone interview will take about 20 minutes. Is now a good time?

Thank you for reading through our first draft of the educational booklet. To ensure that the booklet is relevant and that the content is both accurate and helpful, we appreciate your feedback. This will allow us to improve the booklet prior to giving it to patients.

Participant demographics

What is your full name, role, and institution of work?

How many years have you been in your role?

What volume of rectal cancer patients do you treat a year?

How much time do you currently spend per rectal cancer patient discussing LARS?

What are the barriers to spending more time with patients on this subject?

General overview

What was your overall impression of the booklet?

What are your thoughts regarding the layout and structure of the booklet?

Does the order of topics make sense?

What are your thoughts regarding the images and illustrations selected?

What was your favorite part / least favorite part of the booklet?

Content

Did you notice any inaccurate statements in the booklet?

Is there any important aspect of LARS that is missing from the booklet?

Are there any topics that are explored in too much / too little detail?

Do you have any additional tips and tricks regarding LARS treatment that are not included in the booklet?

Did you learn anything new?

Clinical relevance

Do you think this booklet would be useful for patients?

Would you recommend this booklet to patients and to colleagues?

How can the booklet be made more relevant for patients to use?

Do you think patients would like an online or mobile-application platform for the booklet?

If this booklet is found to be beneficial for patients, how would you incorporate this booklet into clinical practice in the future?

LARS diaries

Do you find the diaries useful for patients?

Have you ever instructed patients to use a bowel or food diary, and what has been their compliance?

What important information is missing from the diaries that might be helpful for patients to better reflect on their bowel symptoms?

Final comments

Do you have any final comments?

We thank you very much for your participation in this interview. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us refine this booklet for the betterment of patient education.