

Postoperative Patient Perspectives Survey

Version 1

Survey Instructions

For the first part of the survey, the questions ask you to read different scenarios and rate each one's severity from 0 to 100. Use the following description as a guide.

0 = No problem

1-25= Minimal

26-50 Mild

51-75 = Moderate

76-99 = Severe

100 = Same as death

For example, if you feel two scenarios are both of moderate severity but one is a little worse than the other, you could rate one 55 and the other 65. If the scenarios seem of significantly different severity, choose numbers in different categories. For example, assign the lesser problem a 20 and the worse problem a 45.

The next part of the survey asks your opinions of problems which can occur after surgery that could be severe. The final section of the survey asks some basic demographic questions and space for your comments regarding any experiences with your own surgeries.

1. A patient gets his appendix removed through an incision in his abdomen. The wound becomes infected and the surgeon opens it in the clinic. The wound needs to heal from the inside out which requires dressing care twice daily. The patient will need to take gauze, soak it in fluid and place it into the wound which is about 1.5 inches deep. This process takes about 15 minutes and is associated with some discomfort for which he takes pain medication.

Scenario A: The wound heals on its own but it takes **4 weeks of this treatment** until the dressing changes are no longer needed.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario B: The wound heals on its own but it takes **8 weeks of this treatment** until the dressing changes are no longer needed.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario C: Instead of the wound dressing in the previous scenarios, the treatment requires the patient to be asleep under general anesthesia in the operating room for about **30 minutes**. A simple bandage is applied by the surgeon that is removed after several days. No other dressing changes are required and the wound heals in **4 weeks time**. There is some discomfort and he takes pain medicine intermittently for one week after the operation.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

2. A patient undergoes removal of a colon cancer. On the third day after the operation, he begins vomiting. The doctors feel his intestines are not functioning and recommend placement of a tube into his stomach. This tube is about the size of a large straw and will be placed throughout his nose into his stomach, where it can help remove the fluid he is throwing up. This is placed with some numbing medication in his nose but no sedation. He is uncomfortable during the 15 minutes it takes to place the tube and it is somewhat bothersome to the nose and throat while it is kept in place.

Scenario A: The tube in his nose needs to stay in place for **10 days**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario B: The tube in his nose needs to stay in place for **2 days**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario C: Instead of the tube being placed through his nose, it is **placed through the skin on his abdomen** into his stomach. This **requires sedation** and the use of a scope through his mouth. He feels no discomfort during the procedure and is not bothered by the tube while it is kept in place. It stays in place for **10 days**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

3. A patient has part of his liver removed for a non-cancerous mass that was causing pain. This goes well but on the third day after the operation, they remove the tube in his bladder (a catheter) that was put in during the operation. After the tube is removed, he is not able to urinate.

Scenario A: A medication that helps him to urinate is prescribed. He will need to take this pill for **two weeks**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario B: Instead of medication, a **catheter is placed into his bladder** while his is awake. It is not uncomfortable once placed. A bag is attached which collects urine and needs to be emptied a couple of times a day. The catheter needs to stay in place for **two days**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

Scenario C: Just as in scenario 2 above, a **catheter is placed into his bladder** while he is awake. It needs to stay in place for **seven days**.

On a scale from 0 to 100, how severe would you consider this problem to be?

(Use any number from 0 to 100)

Consider 0 = No problem, 1-25= Minimal, 26-50 Mild, 51-75 = Moderate, 76-99 = Severe, 100 = Same as death

In general, when thinking about problems that occur after surgery, which of the following would make you think of the problem as **severe**? (Choose one answer per question)

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal
A. If it took a long time to improve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B. If it affected your ability to work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C. If it were an inconvenience to treat it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D. If it caused pain or discomfort	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E. If it required a blood transfusion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
F. If it required an endoscopy (a camera that is put down to look into your intestines)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
G. If it required general anesthesia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
H. If it required sedation (“twilight”)(blocks pain, memory, but slightly awake)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I. If it required antibiotics to treat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
J. How much suffering you felt it caused you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
K. If it temporarily affected your kidney function (causing some changes in your blood tests, not your urine)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
L. If it temporarily affected both your kidney and your heart function	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
M. If it required you to stay in the hospital longer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
N. If it required you to return to the hospital after discharge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
O. If it required you to return to see the surgeon more frequently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
P. If it were a problem that could have been avoided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q. If it caused you to have to stay in the intensive care unit (ICU)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
R. If it caused you to die	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Demographics

What is your age? _____

What is your gender?

Male

Female

Have you ever had an operation?

Yes

No

If yes, was this within the last one year?

Yes

No

If Yes, did you have any problems or complications after any operation?

Yes

No

Have you ever had any of the specific problems described in the scenarios or in the list above? If Yes, please describe.

Do you have any other comments on this topic? Your input is important to our research!

Thank you for completing the survey!!