

Postoperative Patient Perspectives Survey

Version 2

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 undergoes removal of part of the colon for cancer. This goes well but there is some redness around his incision which is mildly tender to him. The surgeon says that this is an infection of the skin.

Scenario A: The surgeon prescribes an **antibiotic pill** which needs to be taken twice a day for **10 days**. The antibiotic is tolerated well but causes some mild nausea when it is taken on an empty stomach. The infection improves within one week.

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 surgeon recommends opening the wound at the bedside. The doctor numbs the area prior to opening the wound and this causes some temporary discomfort. The patient then needs to **change the dressing twice daily**. This entails taking a gauze, soaking it in fluid and placing it into the wound which is about 1.5 inches deep to the skin. This process takes about 15 minutes and is associated with some discomfort for which pain medicine can be taken. This needs to be done for **7 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

2. A patient undergoes removal of part of the colon for cancer. This goes well but he begins vomiting. The doctors feel his intestines are still not functioning normally so he is not allowed to eat or drink anything by mouth.

Scenario A: The surgeon recommends **placement of a tube into his stomach**. This tube is about the size of a large straw and will be placed through his nose into his stomach, which 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.

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 surgeon recommends that he be **placed on food by vein**. This will be a bag filled with all the nutrition he needs. It will require a special IV line be placed at the bedside which is associated with minimal pain as the IV line is placed.

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 undergoes removal of part of the colon for cancer. This goes well but he begins feeling somewhat short of breath four days later.

Scenario A: His doctors evaluate the problem and think that **treatment with medication** will help. This is given by vein and works to get rid of extra fluid by causing him to urinate more. In order to monitor the amount of urine that he makes, they also place a catheter into his bladder. This is a tube which is placed into his urethra (where the urine exits). It will stay for 24 hours.

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: His doctors think that it will improve if they give him a **blood transfusion**. This will be given by vein and will take about 8 hours. He will need to take some Tylenol prior to the transfusion and the nurse will need to check his blood pressure frequently.

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

4. A patient undergoes removal of part of the colon for cancer. This goes well but he begins having fevers 5 days after surgery. His doctors think he has an infected area (an abscess) inside his abdomen and confirm this by getting a CT scan (a special x-ray). His doctors recommend placement of a drainage tube into the abscess through the skin without additional surgery.

Scenario A: This will be done by the radiologists and will require that he **go all the way to sleep with general anesthesia**.

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: This will be done by the radiologists and can be done **using only numbing medication into the skin and some sedating medication by vein**.

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

5. A patient undergoes removal of part of the colon for cancer. This goes well but he begins coughing 2 days after the operation. A chest x-ray is taken and his doctors confirm he has pneumonia. He has more difficulty breathing and is transferred to the ICU and placed on a machine to help him breathe (a ventilator).

Scenario A: He is sedated with medication and he improves after two days. The breathing tube is removed and he continues to recover.

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: In addition, he **also has low blood pressure and needs medication through his vein to keep it normal.** He is sedated with medication and improves after two days. The breathing tube is removed, the medication is stopped and he continues to recover.

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

6. A patient undergoes surgery to remove of part of the colon for cancer.

Scenario A: This goes well, but he is weakened by the procedure and needs to have a significant amount of help from his family and friends when returning home. He is not able to stay at home alone because of his low appetite and energy level. It takes him 10 weeks to feel back to a normal amount of strength.

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: This goes well, but he has a small heart attack on the third day due to the stress of the procedure. This is treated with medication and he does not have any pain or other side effects afterwards. He is in the hospital for an extra week, but then is able to go back home and live independently with full activity.

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**?

	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!!