An Innovative Method of Presenting Practice Specific Data to Physicians: Retinal Detachment Success Rates for Alberta

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SUMMARY OF WORK

Aggregate, anonymous practice data for the province of Alberta was collected and analyzed by the PLP team as guided by retina specialists. A new query tool, a structured digital data menu, will enable the participants to access a broad range of aggregate, anonymous retinal detachment treatment data. Consenting specialists will receive their individualized practice data compared to that of their peers anonymously. Participants will complete a survey about the project, feedback session, and digital data menu.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

1. Identification of treatment success rates when compared with the provincial average.
2. Identification of the surgical treatment strategies that are most successful for patients with retinal detachment within the province. This new information, once shared, may lead to changes in surgical practice patterns for retina specialists across Alberta.
3. Patients in Alberta may benefit from this project by the sharing of new information amongst retina specialists, thereby leading to improvements in treatment strategies for patients with retinal detachments. This may lead to fewer surgical interventions being needed to achieve surgical success by reattachment of the retina. This could reduce patient discomfort, travel, cost, and vision loss.
4. There is the potential to reduce the cost to the health system by having fewer repeat retinal detachment surgeries.

BACKGROUND

Retinal detachment is a serious eye disease in which the retina separates from the back of the eye. If left untreated, it could lead to permanent vision loss or blindness. Research shows that 85% of patients suffering from retinal detachment will require only one surgical intervention to achieve successful retinal reattachment, while 15% of the patients will require multiple interventions to achieve reattachment¹. There are a four main procedure that retinal surgeons use for retinal reattachment: scleral buckle, vitrectomy, laser retinopexy, and pneumatic retinopexy. However, a retinal surgeon may choose to use any combination of these procedures in order to achieve successful retinal reattachment in the first surgical intervention. In general, success is defined as retinal reattachment with no further surgical interventions. This includes primary success (retinal reattachment after only one surgical intervention), secondary success (retinal reattachment after two surgical interventions), and tertiary success (retinal reattachment after three surgical interventions).

CONCLUSION

A. We anticipate that this project will positively impact the care that retina specialists provide to their patients.
B. We expect that the digital data menu will be an effective tool for presenting data as part of CPD.
C. We predict that data with feedback will be an effective learning tool and promote culture of impact assessment.

IMPACT: IMPROVED PATIENT CARE AND STANDARDIZED PHYSICIAN PRACTICE.

ALBERTA PHYSICIAN LEARNING PROGRAM (PLP)

ALIGNING PHYSICIANS LIFELONG LEARNING FOR QUALITY IN ALBERTA

The Physician Learning Program (PLP) is a collaborative program between the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and the Alberta Medical Association (AMA). It is a project based program providing consenting physicians with relevant practice data to encourage CPD and practice change through self-reflection. PLP’s ultimate goal is to improve the quality of our healthcare system in order to improve outcomes for our patients and society as a whole.

REFERENCES