

QUALITATIVE METHODS

WHY PATIENTS REFUSE SURGERY

Objectives:

To learn to apply the results of qualitative studies to clinical practice.

This includes:

1. Determining if the results are valid.
2. Interpreting the results.
3. Applying the results to your clinical practice.

Assignment:

1. Read the scenario and decide how you would respond to the problem.
2. Read the attached guidelines for reading articles concerning qualitative studies.
3. Critically appraise the attached article using the worksheet.
4. Decide how you would respond to the problem after appraising the article.

Clinical Scenario:

You are a fellowship trained hip arthroplasty surgeon who has just started your practice in a busy community hospital. You've noticed that although your clinics have been full of new patients with severe hip arthritis, few have elected to proceed with hip arthroplasty despite your efforts to convince them about the effectiveness of the procedure.

Your administrative assistant mentions that she has heard some of the older patients saying "they've lived this long with the pain so why bother now ...if I was younger I might have considered it". Perplexed by this attitude, you decide to call your fellowship director who tells you that this is not an uncommon comment. He further suggests an article that may shed some light on the decision-making process for patients considering hip arthroplasty. He requests that you consider presenting this topic at a hip surgery review course planned in a few months.

You are intrigued by his offer and agree to explore the reasons why patients who are candidates for hip replacement refuse surgery. You retrieve the article for further review.

Enclosed Materials:

- 1 **Key Article:** Clark JP, Hudak PL, Hawker GA, Coyte PC, Mahomed NN, Kreder HJ, Wright JG. The moving target: A qualitative study of elderly patients' decision-making regarding total joint replacement surgery. *J Bone Joint Surg Am* 2004;86-A(7):1366-74.
- 2 Dans AL, Dans LF, Agoritsas T, Guyatt G, Chapter 13.1 Applying Results to Individual Patients. In Guyatt GH, Meade MO, Cook DJ, Rennie D. *Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice 3rd Ed.* New York, NY: McGraw-Hill; 2015.
- 3 Worksheet for the evaluation of an article on Qualitative Methods.