Surgical Consent in the COVID-19 Era

Audit of Planned operations at Royal Free Site, 13/07 - 24/07

66 Total Planned Cases
0 COVID Infection in Hospital

Three Stage Consent Process

1. Did the patient have a phone conversation about COVID before booking surgery?
   - Yes: 44
   - No: 16
   - Unknown: 6

2. Was a COVID consent and information sheet sent to the patient’s home?
   - Yes: 6
   - No: 54
   - Unknown: 6

3. Was there a signed COVID consent in the notes before surgery?
   - Yes: 21
   - No: 41
   - Unknown: 4

Number of Consent Steps for Patients Undergoing Surgery

- Only 4 patients had all three steps in the COVID consent process
- 61 patients (92%) did not have all three steps

Was there documented evidence of shared decision making in the notes?
- Yes: 11
- No: 31
- Unknown: 14

Of 66 patients undergoing planned surgery during a 2 week interval in July 2020, the three-stage consent process was not followed for the majority of cases. Although it is reassuring that shared decision-making was present in the notes, we believe more awareness is needed of this process to provide informed consent in the COVID era.

Authors:
Victoria White
Ruby Lawson
Conor Fitzpatrick

Royal Free London
NHS Foundation Trust