

Coding framework for qualitative analysis

Part 1: family-health professional consultations

CONTEXT

Introductions and who is present

Diagnosis given

Rationale for study

Time and timing

Optimal time for families to decide whether to participate

Use of terminology: Language and bias

Emphasising voluntariness of participation

ANTIBIOTICS

Drawbacks

Language that might make antibiotics appear riskier than surgery

Recurrence

Managing expectations

Advantages

Treatment outside the trial

Avoid operation, complications

Established and effective

Immediacy of treatment

Language that is positive

Use of antibiotics as an approach in complex cases, other countries etc

SURGERY

Drawbacks

Post-surgery complications [Balancing explanations of treatment risks]

Risk of infection [Balancing explanations of treatment risks]

Risk of surgery [Balancing explanations of treatment risks]

Managing expectations

Advantages

Language that makes surgery seem more positive...

No recurrence

Standard treatment

FRAMING RANDOMISATION

50 50 chance

Computer or system decides

Enhancing explanations of randomisation

Choice

Informed choice

So if you choose to come into the study

we don't choose / You don't choose

MISUNDERSTANDINGS about randomisation

PREFERENCE

Clinician equipoise [varied]

Exploring treatment preferences

Acceptance approach

Exploratory approach

Hinted preferences -missed opportunities to explore treatment prefs

Factors that influence preference

Bad experiences with appendicitis in past

Call to family

Antibiotics - Perceived parents' preferences

Patient preferences

Surgery - Perceived parents' preferences

QUESTIONS - WHAT DO PARENTS WANT TO KNOW & RESPONSE TO STUDY INFO

Opportunity to ask questions

Optimising children's and young people's involvement

DECISION MAKING

Decision - to decline - and response to decision

Decision - to take part - and response to decision

Clinician response

Reasons

QUESTIONS - WHAT DO PATIENTS WANT TO KNOW

Antibiotics

Surgery

Randomisation

Recovery

Limited response from patient

COMMUNICATION STUDY

FEEDBACK - AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Feasibility versus efficacy

Complex language used

Expectations timeframe antibiotics

Expectations timeframe to surgery

VIDEO

Audio-visual methods of providing information

Part 2: Child and young person interviews

SYMPTOMS AND GETTING TO HOSPITAL

Pain, tummy ache

Sickness

AT THE HOSPITAL

Child's status

Diagnosis

Staff

RECRUITMENT CONSULTATION - Initial thoughts about CONTRACT

Patient information leaflet

Didn't read it

No recall of patient information leaflet

Preference

ANTIBIOTICS - reasons for declining study

SURGERY - reasons for opting for surgery outside study

Questions patients ask

Participant - no questions but given the opportunity to ask

Randomisation

Acceptability

Disappointing

Misperceptions of randomisation

Lack of equipoise

Enough time to make a decision

Video

DECISION MAKING

ANTIBIOTICS - reasons for declining study

SURGERY - reasons for opting for surgery outside study

PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY [REASONS FOR]

Antibiotics

Being in equipoise

Participant - altruism

Spoke to dad by FaceTime

STUDY TREATMENTS

Antibiotics

Surgery

OUTCOMES & RECOVERY

Psychological

Appetite

Healing

Recovery

Normality

Pain

Physical activity

School time off

Recall issues

Part 3: Parent interviews

SYMPTOMS AND GETTING TO HOSPITAL

Route to hospital

Symptoms

Changes in behaviour

Looked ill

Pain, tummy ache or distended

Sickness

Temperature

AT THE HOSPITAL

Diagnosis

Delays

Tests and scans

Stressful environment and worried parent

RECRUITMENT CONSULTATION

Conversations inappropriate with children

Clinician bias or lack of equipoise

Responses to treatment allocation

CONTRACT - Most important messages conveyed

Avoiding an operation

CONTRACT - Understanding & framing of discussion

Recall of figures

Paient information leafelt

Preference

Clinician preferences

Having trust in clinical team to do best for their child

Managing expectations

Conflicting preference and family decision making

Child involvement on decision making

Mum and dad same preference

Disappointment when given allocation to surgical arm

Exploring treatment preferences

Calling a medical 'friend'

Going into the study but hope for a specific treatment

Perceived preferences - antibiotics

Avoiding an operation and anesthetic

Descriptions of child's views - antibiotics

Perceived patients' parents' preferences - Surgery

Appendicitis equals operation

Fear of delaying treatment

Fear of recurrence

Fear of treatment failure

Get it over with, get it out, get it sorted

Getting a tried and 'tested' treatment

Questions parents ask

Randomisation

Acceptability

Computer decides

Disappointment

Equipoise

Lack of equipoise

Timing

Time to decide

Video

Qualitative study - feelings about recording the conversation

DECISION MAKING

ANTIBIOTICS - reasons for declining study

Treatment delays

Surgery to avoid perforation

Surgery as immediate relief from pain

PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY [REASONS FOR]

Avoid surgery

Benefits - decision to participate

Worries - decision to participate

Influence on decision - family and friends

Altruism

STUDY TREATMENTS

Antibiotics

Treatment failure

Recurrence risk

Surgery

Perceived immediacy, delays in getting surgery because of other emergencies

OUTCOMES & RECOVERY

Post-surgical discussions and impact on families' views

Activities whilst recovering

Appetite

Psychological

Expectations v reality

Mobilisation

Normality

Pain

Physical activity

Scar, healing

School - time off

FOLLOW-UP

Being part of research

Recall issues

Part 4: Health professional interviews

Wider team views, past involvement in research, trials and CONTRACT

Years experience, role and team organisation

Interviewee and wider team opinions

Drawing from other experience in research and past involvement in trials

Understanding of study rationale

Pathways to hospital

Reasons for exclusion

Perforation

Suspected perforated

(Un)supported staff

Age

Already had antibiotics

Appendix mass

Timing - too upset

Uncertainty of research

Assessing eligibility and concerns regarding eligibility

Suggested changes to eligibility criteria

Introducing CONTRACT

Decline [reasons for]

Speaking to partner or other members of family

Relative's bad experience of appendicitis more important factor

Optimising patient approach

Time to decide

Research nurse availability

Research nurse role valued

Qualitative study

Missed conversations

What families think of being recorded

Discussing 'feasibility'

Views on treatment arms [patient and surgeon]

Surgery

Managing expectations - time to surgery

Antibiotics

Personal experience of appendicitis

Recurrence - clinician views on

Treatment failure

Views on randomisation, equipoise and choice

Choice

Clinical equipoise

Medical and personal equipoise

Disappointed families

Randomisation

Preference

Clinician preferences

Would I do that with my children

Mixed feelings about use of antibiotics

Views on antibiotics

Preference for non-operative treatment

Antibiotic resistance and limiting opportunities for junior surgeons

Views on surgery

Why challenge a well established treatment

Surgery as standard treatment

Conflicting preference & family decision making

Disappointment when given allocation to surgical arm

Mum and dad different preference

Patient and parent different preference

Perceived patients' preferences

Perceived family pref - antibiotics

Perceived family pref - no preference

Perceived family pref - surgery

Acceptance approach

Exploratory approach

Providing too much information on risk

Worries about dissuading families from participating

Concerns about coercing families

Balancing

Eliciting preference

Reservations about exploring treatment preferences

Language use

Factors that influence preference

Family

Assent and age of child

Preconceived views

Previous experience of appendicitis

Treatment

Avoiding an operation and anesthetic

Belief you can't treat appendicitis with antibiotics

Fear of recurrence

Get it over with, get it out, get it sorted

In pain or so unwell - just give me the surgery

Natural tendency for families to want standard treatment

Video - Clinicians views

Perceptions of family's views

Link to video for parents not present

Patient information leaflet

Opinions about involvement in follow-up

Psychological issues

Follow up questions

Mobility

Physical assessment

Surgeon not involved in follow-up

Opinions about Recovery and Outcomes

Surgery

Antibiotics

Blind assessment before discharge

Length of hospital stay

Outcomes

Re-admission - antibiotics

Re-admission - surgery

Training for ward nurses

Training and suggestions for improvement for recruiter training

Barriers to implementing feedback

Content of feedback

Hints and tips

Language to use or not to use