**PLEASE NOTE:** This trial has been registered retrospectively.

**Trial Description**

**Title**

Surgical patients’ use of, and attitudes towards, the Internet for e-patient activities in Germany and Oman

**Trial Acronym**

Surgical patients’ view on e-patient

**URL of the trial**

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**Brief Summary in Lay Language**

E-patient activities are known to impact upon the patient-doctor relationship and on health outcomes and treatment. Thus, this study aimed to investigate surgical e-patients’ use of, and attitudes towards, the internet in Germany and Oman. The results showed that patients were generally positive about bringing material from the Internet to a surgical consultation and that it would improve the patient-doctor relationship. Further, typical e-patient activity and attitudes (e.g. usage of the internet for health-related activities) could be found in a sample of patients in German and Oman surgical outpatient clinics.

**Brief Summary in Scientific Language**

Introduction: E-patient activities are well-described, and are known to impact upon the patient-doctor relationship and on surgical outcomes. In Oman, there is no published information about the e-patient. This study was conducted at two surgical sites, one in Germany and one in Oman, and investigated surgical e-patients’ use of, and attitudes towards, the Internet.

Materials and Methods: A paper-based questionnaire, based on e-patient activities described in the literature, was completed by patients at the two surgical sites.

Results: A total of 83 German and 93 Omani patients completed the questionnaire. There were many similarities in usage and attitudes, videos were the prime source of online information (32.5% and 74.2% respectively), Omani patients showed much greater knowledge and usage of sites and apps, used the Internet more for health-related activities (26.9% vs. 12.0%), had a greater proportion of their physician encounters through email (10.0% vs. 4.0%) and social media (15.2% vs. 1.8%) and more Omani patients brought information from the Internet than German patients (13.5% vs. 6.0%). Patients were generally positive about bringing material from the Internet to the consultation, that it would improve the patient-doctor relationships, although acknowledged that it did increase the time of the consultation.

Discussion and Conclusion: Both sites indicated typical e-patient activity and attitudes. Age and type of condition (chronic vs. acute) may explain the differences to some extent, but this was not consistent. Socio-historical
Differences between the two countries may have a great influence on the usage.

Do you plan to share individual participant data with other researchers?

No

Description IPD sharing plan

Data is only available on reasonable request by the corresponding author.

Organizational Data

- DRKS-ID: DRKS00021154
- Date of Registration in DRKS: 2020/03/24
- Date of Registration in Partner Registry or other Primary Registry: [---]*
- Investigator Sponsored/Initiated Trial (IST/IIT): yes
- Ethics Approval/Approval of the Ethics Committee: Approved
- (leading) Ethics Committee Nr.: 001/2018BO2, Ethik-Kommission an der Medizinischen Fakultät der Eberhard-Karls-Universität und am Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

Secondary IDs

Health condition or Problem studied

- ICD10: F45.41 - [generalization F45.4: Persistent somatoform pain disorder]
- ICD10: R52.0 - Acute pain

Interventions/Observational Groups

- Arm 1: Observational study: Patients are interviewed once during a surgical consultation with a standardized questionnaire on their Internet use and e-patient activities.

Characteristics

- Study Type: Non-interventional
- Study Type Non-Interventional: Observational study
- Allocation: Single arm study
The aim of this study was to assess the attitudes towards and the use of the Internet and e-patient activities in surgical patients.

Secondary Outcome

comparison of results among Oman and Germany

Countries of recruitment

- DE Germany
- OM Oman

Locations of Recruitment

- University Medical Center Muscat and Tuebingen

Recruitment

- Planned/Actual: Actual
- (Anticipated or Actual) Date of First Enrollment: 2019/03/01
- Target Sample Size: 50
- Monocenter/Multicenter trial: Multicenter trial
- National/International: International
Inclusion Criteria

- Gender: Both, male and female
- Minimum Age: 18 Years
- Maximum Age: no maximum age

Additional Inclusion Criteria

Visit of an surgical consultation

Exclusion criteria

[---]*

Addresses

- **Primary Sponsor**

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- Public funding institutions financed by tax money/Government funding body (German Research Foundation (DFG), Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), etc.)

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Status

- Recruitment Status: Recruiting complete, follow-up complete
- Study Closing (LPLV): 2019/07/31
**Trial Publications, Results and other documents**

* This entry means the parameter is not applicable or has not been set.
*** This entry means that data is not displayed due to insufficient data privacy clearing.