

Decisions Important to Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Patients and their Motivations for Engaging as Research Partners

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Background: Patient-engaged research can improve the safety and satisfaction outcomes of hip and knee arthroplasty (joint replacement surgery).

Objectives: To identify the decisions that are most important to patients undergoing hip and knee arthroplasty, the factors they view as important in making those decisions, and their motivations for being involved in research.

Methods: Forty-nine participants were recruited from ArthritisPower Patient-Powered Research Network and CreakyJoints patient community to participate in a series of one-hour focus groups held via webinar during January to April 2016 to understand patient experience with joint replacement. In fifteen webinars, patient groups described decisions that were most important to them and a list of reasons they felt motivated to engage as research partners in this area. Items were aggregated into common decisions and factors, redundant items de-duplicated, and then categorized. Demographic and procedure-related characteristics were captured.

Results: Seven decisions emerged that were influenced by at least ten factors. The most important decisions involved choice of timing, surgeon, facility, implant device, and ancillary health professionals and services. Patients were motivated to be partners in research to help others and themselves.

Conclusions: Arthroplasty patients are concerned about a variety of decisions. Patient-centered research should maximally address questions of importance to patients and this study is a first step in identifying and prioritizing topics that matter most to patients.

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