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EXPECTATIONS REGARDING TOTAL KNEE JOINT REPLACEMENT: VIEWS FROM PATIENTS AND CARE PROVIDERS

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Purpose: Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) is considered as one of the most effective treatment of disabling knee osteoarthritis and its main goals are to increase function and diminish pain. However, patients' satisfaction about surgery is not always closely correlated with better function and less pain and may be more related with fulfilling their expectations. Therefore, the assessment of patients' expectations regarding the benefits of knee replacement surgery is recommended. Better understanding expectations of patient and care providers about TKA could help increasing satisfaction with surgery, but few qualitative studies have been performed in this field. We aimed to identify expectations of patients and care providers regarding TKA and to reveal potential obstacles for improvements of management strategies.

Methods: A qualitative study based on semi structured interviews was performed with a stratified sample of 20 patients (11 women, 12 with TKA since one month to 5 years) and 18 care providers (6 women, 6 general practitioners (GPs), 5 rheumatologists, 5 orthopedic surgeons, 2 physical therapists).

Results: Patients' expectations were variables and depended on treatment duration before TKA, material adaptations, vision of the world (optimistic or pessimistic), and more classical sociological variables such as age, gen-der, social position. Main expectations verbalized by patients concerned surgeons, pain, rehabilitation program, disability, and personal integrity. Patients expected from surgeons a personalized management, to spend more time with them, to be reassuring, to give all important informations, to be honest about outcomes, to be competent. Concerning pain patients expected to experience no or minimal pain. Rehabilitation was expected to be rapid and efficient and to be a support to learn to live with TKA. Dis-ability was expected to significantly diminish in order to be able to work,