

# THE GAP IN PRESURGICAL PATIENT EXPECTATIONS

## HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY LUMBAR SPINE SURGERY EXPECTATIONS SURVEY: DUTCH TRANSLATION AND VALIDATION

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Despite the recent development of the **Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey**, many researchers and clinicians use self-constructed questionnaires to assess patient expectations regarding spinal surgery. **A standardized and reliable Dutch survey to inventorize patients' expectations regarding spinal surgery is currently lacking.**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Aim</b>       | To translate the English <b>Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey</b> [1] to Dutch and examine its psychometric properties.  |
| <b>Methods</b>   | The <b>forward-backward translation</b> method will be applied to the original Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey. The translations will be revised by a committee of selected experts. The pre-final Dutch survey will be piloted in a small sample (n=50) of spinal surgery patients.<br><br>The <b>reliability and validity</b> will be assessed in a large sample (n=300) of spinal surgery patients. |
| <b>Relevance</b> | A Dutch validated survey for assessment of expectations of spinal surgery patients may assist both clinicians and researchers.   |

### 1 What do we know

The evidence regarding the **correlation between patients' expectations and outcome after surgery** is rather **ambiguous**: Some studies find that greater expectations are associated with greater satisfaction following spinal surgery, other studies find different results depending on the type of intervention (e.g. discectomy vs. laminectomy) or depending on the aspect of expectations (e.g. physical vs. pain)

This can be partially attributed to the **lack of a uniform, validated, and reliable method** to assess patients' expectations.

Therefore, the English **Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey** was developed.

 However, **A DUTCH STANDARDIZED SURVEY FOR INVENTARISATION OF PATIENTS' EXPECTATIONS IS STILL LACKING...**

### 2 Translation

Of the original reliable and validated **Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey**: a 21-item survey answered on a Likert-scale

**Forward-backward translation** method to translate from English to Dutch, for use in **Belgium and the Netherlands**

Revision by a **committee of experts**, including translators, methodologist, spinal surgery experts and psychology experts.

The pre-final Dutch survey will be **piloted** in a **sample (n=50) of patients** scheduled for spinal surgery.

### 3 Clinimetric properties

The **validity** (i.e. content, construct, and discriminative validity) and **reliability** (i.e. internal consistency and test-retest reliability) of the final survey will be assessed in a **sample (n=300) of spinal surgery patients**.

The survey will be **administered twice** before the spinal surgery.

|   | Back to normal or complete improvement | Not back to normal, but... |                                  |                      | I do not have this expectation, or this expectation does not apply to me |
|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
|   |  | a lot of improvement       | a moderate amount of improvement | a little improvement |  |
| Relieve pain  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Relieve symptoms that interfere with sleep  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to walk more than several blocks  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to sit more than half an hour   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to stand more than half an hour   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Regain strength in legs   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve balance   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to go up and down stairs  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to manage personal care (such as, dress, bathe)   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to drive  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Remove need for pain medications  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to interact with others (such as, social and family activities)                             | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve sexual activity   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to perform daily activities (such as, chores, shopping, errands)                            | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Improve ability to exercise for general health  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Remove restrictions in activities (such as, be more mobile, not have to rest every few minutes)             | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| If currently employed: Fulfill job responsibilities (such as, work required hours, complete expected tasks) | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| If currently work-disabled or unemployed due to spine: Go back to work for salaried employment              | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Reduce emotional stress or sad feelings   | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Stop my spine condition from getting worse  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |
| Remove the control my spine condition has on my life  | 1                                      | 2                          | 3                                | 4                    | 5  |

### 4 The Dutch Hospital for Special Surgery Lumbar Spine Surgery Expectations Survey will...

... be a **reliable and valid** survey to assess patient expectations on outcome following spinal surgery

... be a **fast and easy** to use survey to administer in clinical practice and research settings

... **benefit clinicians** by allowing to determine whether patients' expectations are realistic to avoid disappointment

... **benefit research** by stopping the sprawl of self-constructed surveys in the field of spinal surgery

#### References

[1] Mancuso CA, Cammisa FP, Sama AA, Hughes AP, Ghomrawi HMK, Girardi FP. Development and testing of an expectations survey for patients undergoing lumbar spine surgery. J Bone Jt Surg - Ser A 2013;95:1793-1800.



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