

PREDICTORS OF ACQUAINTANCE WITH LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY IN PARENTS - AN ONLINE SURVEY

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BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

While laparoscopy (LS) is becoming widespread among pediatric surgeons, little is known about parental knowledge on the topic. Assessing acquaintance with LS and which advantages and hurdles are identified by parents may improve overall communication between pediatric surgeons and families. Our study aims to identify parental demographic predictors on knowing LS.

METHODS

An online survey was addressed to caregivers of children under 18 years living in Portugal via social media platforms, during a 7-day period. Parent and children's demographic data, knowledge on laparoscopy, its main advantages and concerns, children's surgical background and overall satisfaction with laparoscopy were assessed.

RESULTS

We received a total of 1,727 responses. 40 responses were excluded. Mean age was 38.5 years. 89% were mothers. 91% had at least a high school degree. 25.9% worked in healthcare, 15.7% in education and 14.3% in public services. The median number of offspring was 1.59 (average age 6.56 years). 30.9% had no knowledge of laparoscopy. Previous laparoscopic interventions (43.9%) were the main source of information of the remaining. The main advantage identified was faster recovery (71.8%). The main concern was technical complexity (45.1%). Older age (compared with an average of 38.9 years), having a high school or superior degree, being a health professional, having more children (compared with an average of 1.59 children) and having children with surgical background were predictive of knowing LS ($p < 0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS

Even in a highly educated population there is an important lack of health literacy, particularly on surgical techniques. Establishing predictors on LS

knowledge will allow surgeons to improve communication with parents on surgical options.

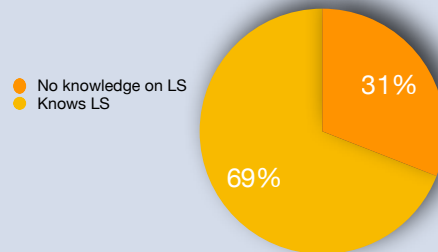


Figure 1. Knowledge on Laparoscopic surgery (LS).

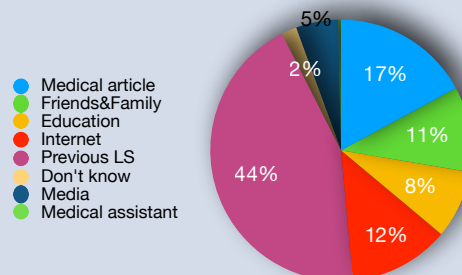


Figure 2. Source of information on laparoscopic surgery.

	P value	OR knowing LS	P value
Gender	p=0.9738		
Age	p<0.001	1.013	p<0.001
Highschool or superior degree	p<0.001	1.904	p<0.001
Health professional	p<0.001	1.507	p<0.001
Number of offspring	p=0.0011	1.073	p=0.0011
Previous children's surgery	p=0.0002	1.204	p<0.001

Table 1. Probability of knowing LS by age and Odds ratio of LS knowledge. Odds ratio of knowing LS of the group 40-49 years, compared with the remaining age groups. OR - odds ratio.

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