International Journal of Advanced Research in Biological Sciences

ISSN: 2348-8069 www.ijarbs.com

DOI: 10.22192/ijarbs Coden: IJARQG(USA) Volume 6, Issue 2 - 2019

Research Article



DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijarbs.2019.06.02.023

Quality of surgical care and satisfaction from the patients' perspective in the surgical ward

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Abstract

Background: Patient satisfaction is used increasingly as a quality indicator by health services. Understanding the patients' perceptions of surgical care provided in surgical wards is very important because it would assist in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the type of care provided from patients' perspective. This eventually could help in improving the surgical care so as to meet the satisfaction of the consumers.

Aim of the study: To explore patients' perceptions and experiences regarding surgical care in surgical wards.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study aimed at describing patients' perceptions regarding the quality of surgical care and satisfaction in the general surgical wards at El-Sader Medical City / El-Najaf El-Ashraf. The research was conducted between April, and August, 2013 using a Structured questionnaire with an interview as a means to explain the meanings behind questionnaire responses.

Results: The overall satisfaction rate was (58.5%), male satisfaction rate was (56.5 %), while female satisfaction rate was (60.6%). The respondents satisfaction rate about the care received from the nurses was (67.6%) while about doctors' care was (72. 2%). There were statistically significant differences in responses on the level of satisfaction regarding the age, level of education and surgical ward environment.

Conclusion: Improvements in communication and proper planning with the quality of medical services provided for the patients which would mitigate the anxiety and fear they feel in relation to their peri-operative experience.

Gathering postoperative patient feedback regarding the quality of care to help inform the system of opportunities for improvement.

Keywords: Patient satisfaction, surgical care, age, level of education and surgical ward environment.

Abbreviations / Acronyms: CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. HCAHPS Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health care, Providers and Systems. PACU Post Anaesthetic Care Unit. SD Standard Deviation. SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences. US United State of America. WHO World Health Organization

Introduction

Among the patients admitted in hospitals, it was observed that hospitalization for surgery is associated with increased anxiety. It was also shown that post-operative pain and anxiety continue to be problematic for patients after the surgery(1). Therefore, it is expected that surgical care needs to be engaged and should provide individualized care that acknowledges the emotional, physical, spiritual and environmental dimensions of patients.

In the general surgical wards, patients undergo two phases of surgical care i.e.; preoperative and postoperative surgical care. Surgical ward staff have the duty to meet patients' needs and expectations specific to each phase of surgical care.

Preoperative phase is that time during the surgical experiences that begins with client to have surgery and ends with transfer of patient to operating unit(2). In this phase, patients are expected to be assessed by nurses during the planning of their care, to be taught about their condition, treatment options, surgical procedure, and to be evaluated in anticipation of surgery. The purpose of preoperative care is to evaluate the patient's readiness for surgery, identify potential risks and hazards of surgery, advise patient about the surgical procedure, prepare patient for postoperative experiences, plan for home care and provide emotional support(3). Postoperative surgical care involves maintaining the airway, monitoring vital signs, assessing the effects of anaesthetic agents, assessing patients for complication and providing comfort and pain relief(4). This is an immediate postoperative care which is usually provided in a Postanaesthetic Care Unit (PACU), which is before the patient is taken back to the surgical ward. In addition to the immediate postoperative surgical care, the general postoperative care provided in surgical ward focuses on promoting the patients' recovery and initiating the teaching, follows up care and referrals essential for recovery and rehabilitation after discharge. Understanding the patients' perceptions of surgical care provided in surgical wards is very important because it would assist in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the type of care provided from patients' perspective. This eventually could help in improving the surgical care so as to meet the satisfaction of the consumers.

The deciding factors influencing patients' satisfaction [the level of satisfaction is the difference between patient's expectations and perceptions (the actual state) of medical services by patient] with their stay at a surgical ward were:

- 1.Factors pertaining to the material area(living conditions).
- 2.Empathy.
- 3. Personnel's competences.
- 4. Personnel's reaction to a patient's needs.
- 5. Proper information about the illness and the course of treatment.

Patient satisfaction is used increasingly as a quality indicator by health services

Surveys which address patient satisfaction are common, but responses to such surveys are subjective and interpretation can be difficult as satisfaction rating are a function of expectations, which are likely to vary between patients(5). It is claimed that patients are the best placed-commentators on the standard of coordination of care and follow up. The Medical Outcome Study(6) combine functional health outcome with patient satisfaction. In patient satisfaction research, it is necessary to communicate with patients to identify the issues which concern them most acutely and to identify how they perceive and interpret the services they receive.

Surgical ward success lies in its image and how it is perceived , and also in the quality of services it provides , its identity , and the way it communicates with its patients. The aim being the ensurance of the quality of all the processes in the surgical ward. How perfect a surgical care unit is depends on how patient sees it, and even more on the quality assessment , that is the quality of medical service and the level of attention patient experienced during his/her stay at a hospital(7).

Quality has been defined as the process of meeting the needs and expectations of patients and health service staff. The WHO identified: effectiveness, efficiency, accessibility, acceptability/patient-centeredness, equitability and safety as dimentions that help to define quality(8). The health care services should be effective in such a way that is adherent to an evidence base and results in improved health outcomes for individuals and communities based on needs. It should also be efficient in a manner that maximizes resource use and avoids waste. The health care services should be accessible in terms of being timely and be provided in a setting where skills and resources are appropriate to medical need. The WHO, emphasized that the

health care services should be accepted or be patient centered in which it takes into account the preferences and aspirations of individual service users. It should also be equitable whereby it does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Lastly, it should be safe, that is, it should minimize risks and harm to service users. These dimensions as described by WHO are what the health consumers expect from any health professionals.

The patient satisfaction instrument used in this study originated from US based Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health care Providers and Systems (HCAHPS). In the US the HCAHPS survey is the 1st national ,standardized ,publicly reported survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care(9,10).

HCAHPS (pronounced "H-caps"), is a survey instrument and data collection methodology for measuring patients' perceptions of their hospital experience.

Since 2008, HCAHPS has allowed valid comparisons to be made across hospitals locally, regionally and nationally.

Three broad goals have shaped HCAHPS(11,12). First, the standardized survey and implementation protocol produce data that allow objective and meaningful comparisons of hospitals on topics that are important to consumers. Second, public reporting of HCAHPS results creates new incentives for hospitals to improve quality of care. Third, public reporting enhances accountability in health care by increasing transparency of the quality of hospital care provided in return for the public investment. With these goals in mind, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the HCAHPS Project Team have taken substantial steps to assure that the survey is credible, useful, and practical.

Objective of the Study

To explore patients' perceptions regarding the quality of surgical care and satisfaction in the general surgical wards at El-Sader Medical City / El-Najaf El-Ashraf.

Patient and Methods

Study design:

After obtaining the ethical approval from the Medical Ethics Committee / University of Kufa-College of

Medicine, a descriptive cross-sectional study aimed at describing patients' perceptions regarding the quality of surgical care and satisfaction in the general surgical wards at El-Sader Medical City / Najaf.The quantitative variables included; patients' demographic variables, expectations and level of satisfaction. Qualitative variables included; patients' perception of surgical care and challenges. The study was conducted between April and August, 2013.

Study area:

The study was conducted at El-Sader Medical City which is the biggest referral hospital in El-Najaf El-Ashraf Province and it is also a regional referral hospital in middle Euphrates area. It also acts as a teaching institution for University of Kufa/ College of medicine. It has (12) wards, (16) out-patient clinics, (16) specialized theatres and Accident and Emergency Department. It has bed capacity of (350), and (60) out of it is for the private wing. It has an estimated total number of 627 nurses, 237 doctors.

The study was conducted in the general surgical ward situated in the 1st floor and the private surgical ward in the 3rd floor of the tower block. These surgical wards perform both elective and emergency operations.

Study population:

The study population was adult (18 years) inpatients admitted in both surgical wards mentioned above.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria:

The basic criteria for inclusion were those who were inpatient with at least two nights experience in the hospital, had had an operation, 18 years old, were in stable general condition postoperatively and fully conscious. Patients who were not operated on, comatose or confused, 18 years old, they were unable to complete the questionnaire for reasons of (senility, mental illness, or inability to read or understand Arabic) were excluded.

Data collection tools:

The research was conducted using a Structured questionnaire (closed and open ended questions written in both English and Arabic) with an interview as a means to explain the meanings behind

questionnaire responses (most patients requested that the researcher assist by reading out the questions and marking the answers). The questionnaire survey using independent variables included patients' age, gender, and level of education, in addition to 37 questions (dependent variables) focusing on the principal areas of concern for surgical patients and the importance of a patient's medical condition in accounts of satisfaction with care.

These questions covering the patients' surgical experience from the outpatient visit, ER and surgical ward admission, the hospital stay, the operation, recovery and discharge The question response options were narrative in their design in order to maintain a friendly style to the questionnaire.

Data quality assurance:

Data collection tool was adapted from Hospital Consumers Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey tool developed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the US (It was then modified to meet the study objectives), utilizing ten HCAHPS measures (six summary measures, two individual items, and two global items). Each of the six summary measures or composites, is constructed from two or three survey questions. Combining related questions into composites allows consumers to quickly review patient experience data and increases the statistical reliability of these measures.

The six composites summarize how well nurses and doctors communicate with patients, how responsive surgical ward staff are to patients' needs, how well ward staff help patients manage pain, how well the staff communicates with patients about new medicines, and whether key information is provided at discharge.

The two individual items address the cleanliness and quietness of patients' rooms; the two global items capture patients' overall rating of the surgical ward, the surgeon, and whether they would recommend it to family and friends.

The patients in both surgical wards were approached by the researcher and asked to participate in the survey by completing the questionnaire. a total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to patients ready for discharge from both surgical wards/El-sader medical city. Participants'details remained anonymous and

Confidentiality was guaranteed to protect their privacy. . The calculation of HCAHPS survey composites uses a proportional scoring method, which basically generates a proportion for each response option. The basic steps to this approach: 1.Calculate the proportion of patient responses in each response category for each item in a composite. . 2.Combine these proportions for all items in a composite. Two recommended strategies are average scoring and "top box" scoring, which involves reporting only the score for the most positive categories (e.g., the proportion of patients reporting "always") .Given a composite with five items, where each item has four response options, a provider's score for that composite is the proportion of responses (excluding missing data) in each response category(10,11,12). The following steps show how those proportions are calculated:

Step1-Calculate the proportion of cases in each response category for the first question: P11=Proportion of respondents who answered "never" P12= Proportion of respondents who answered "sometimes" P13 = Proportion of respondents who answered "usually" P14 = Proportion of respondents who answered "always" Follow the same steps for the second question: P21 = Proportion of respondents who answered "never" P22 = Proportion of respondents who answered "sometimes" P23 = Proportion of respondents who answered "usually" P24 = Proportion of respondents who answered "always" Repeat the same procedure for each of the questions in the composite.

Step2-Combine responses from the questions to form the composite. Calculate the average proportion responding to each category across the questions in the composite. For example, in the "Getting Appointments and Health Care When Needed" composite (five questions), calculations would be as follows: PC1= Composite proportion who said never" = (P11 + P21 + P31 + P41 + P51)/5. PC2 =Composite proportion who said sometimes= (P12 + P22 + P32 + P42 + P52)/5. PC3 =Composite proportion who said "usually" = (P13 + P23 + P33 + P43 + P53)/5. PC4 = Composite proportion who said "always" = (P14 + P24 + P34 + P44 + P54)/5.

Data management and analysis:

The information in the study tool was checked for completeness before entering into Excel spreadsheet on the computer. The raw data was cleaned, coded and entered into the computer as soon as data was generated. Data analysis was done using SPSS version 20. The quantitative data was summarized using descriptive statistics. The qualitative data was grouped into themes and as narratives and then was summarized using descriptive statistics. Inferential statistics such as t-tests, ANOVA and Pearson correlation was used to find relationships of the variables and its significance. Data analysis was done with the assistance of a Biostatistician.

Study assumptions

The researcher assumed that the respondents were honest with the information they gave.

Results

Total number of patients included in this cross-sectional study was (250),of it (139) were males (55.6%) and (111) were females (44.4%). The average age of the patients was 32.9 year, (SD = 1.65, Range = 18y - 83y). In regard of educational level (23.2%) had completed primary school, some high school but did not graduate (30.8%), (16.8%) had completed high school, (15.6%) had completed undergraduate studies, (0.4%) had completed post graduate studies and (13.2%) provide no any level of education. 103 patients (41.2%) were admitted from emergency department, while 147 patients (58.8%) were admitted from out-patient department & private clinics as elective cases (table-1)

Table-1 Socio-Demographic factors of the patients.

Variables	No.	%
Total No. of patients	250	100%
Gender:		
Male	139	55.50%
Female	111	44.4%
Age groups:		
18-24y	56	22.40%
25-34y	65	26%
35-44y	46	18.40%
45-54y	31	12.40%
55-64y	30	12%
65-74	16	6.40%
>74	6	2.40%
Level of Education:		
Nothing	33	13.20%
8 th grade	58	23.20%
High School not graduate	77	30.80%
High School graduate	42	16.80%
2-years degree College	19	7.60%
4-years College graduate	20	8%
Postgraduate	1	2.40%
Admission:		
Elective	147	58.80%
Emergency	103	41.20%
Duration of admission		
2-7 days	238	95.20%
>7 days	12	4.80%

The patient satisfaction questionnaire was divided into sections i.e. care received from nurses , care received from doctors , the surgical ward environment, patients' experiences in surgical ward , emergency index , patient rating of the surgeon and lastly the overall rating of the surgical ward. The overall satisfaction

rate was (58.5%), male satisfaction rate was (56.5%), while female satisfaction rate was (60.6%). The respondents satisfaction rate about the care received from the nurses was (67.6%) as seen in table -2 below:

Table-2 care received from nursing staff.

During this hospital stay:	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Q1 How often did nurses treat you with courtesy & respect?	0%	0.4%	43.6%	56%
Q2 How often did nurses listen carefully to you &explain things in a way you could understand?	0.4%	34.4%	33.2%	32%
Q3 How often did you get help as soon as you wanted it?	0%	16.4%	40.4%	43.2%
Q4 Did any one in this ward give you easy to understand instructions about getting ready for surgery?	54.8%	23.2%	22%	0%

While about doctors' care was (72.2%) as shown in table - 3 below:

Table-3 care received from doctors.

	Percentage	Response		
Q-During this hospital stay:	sometimes	sometimes	Usually	Always
Q5.How often did doctors treat you with courtesy and respect?	0.4%	0.4%	37.2%	62.4%
Q6.How often did doctors listen carefully to you and give easy to understand information about health questions or concerns?	39.6%	39.6%	35.2%	24.8%
Q7.Before your surgery did your surgeon encourage you to ask questions?	32.4%	32.4%	49.6%	1.2%
Q8.Did your surgeon Show respect for what you had to say?	21.2%	21.2%	75.6%	2.8%

Survey responses to questions on the surgical ward environment inferred positive patient perceptions of cleanliness and hygiene standards of the surgical ward. Patients noted the visibility of cleaning staff on wards and throughout the hospital. When rating the quietness of the ward at night, many patients qualified their answers by saying they experienced some level of noise(see table-4 below):

Table-4 Patient's responses relating to surgical ward environment.

During this hospital stay:	Percentage Response						
	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always			
Q11How often were your room (ward) kept clean?	0%	20.8%	52.4%	26.8%			
Q12How often were your bath-room kept clean?	15.6%	24.8%	35.2%	24.4%			
Q13How often was the area around your Room quiet at night?	11.6%	33.6%	33.6%	21.2%			

The results of the survey in relation to the inpatient experience indicated that 37.6 % (n = 94) of respondents required help getting to the bathroom or using a bedpan at some time during their hospital stay. Of those who required help, 7.4% (n = 7) indicated

that they "usually" received help as soon as they wanted it. A further 26.6% (n = 25) "sometimes" received help as soon as they wanted it. 66% (n =62) said they "never" received help as soon as they needed it

Table-5 How responsive ward staff are to patient's Needs.

Response to patient's Needs	Percentage response			ponse
	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Q3.Howoften did you get help as soon as you wanted it?	0%	16.4%	40.4%	43.2%
Q22.Howoften did you get help in getting to the bathroom or in using a bedpan as soon as you wanted?	65%	26.66%	6.4%	1%

Survey question on the patients' experiences in surgical ward also addressed pain control and medication management. Hundred percent (n=250) of patients indicated that they required medicine for pain during their hospital stay. Of those who did, 9.6% (n=24) indicated that their pain was "always" well controlled, 48% (n=120) said it was "usually" well controlled, 42% (n=105) said "sometimes", with 0.4% (n=1) of patients indicating that their pain was

"never" well controlled. When asked if they believed that hospital staff did everything they could to help them with their pain, 11.2% (n =28) indicated that they "always" did so .54.8% (n =137) agreed that staff "usually" did so, with almost 34% (n = 85) of respondents indicating that hospital staff did everything they could to help them with their pain either "sometimes" or "never".(See table-6 below):

Table-6 Patient's responses to pain control.

Response to pain control	Percentage response			
	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Q24.Howoften was your pain well controlled?	0.4%	42%	48%	9.6%
Q25.Howoften did the ward staff do every thing they could to help you with your pain?	0.4%	33.6%	54.8%	11.2%

65.6 % of respondents (n = 164) said they were given medicine during their hospital stay which they had not taken before, of those patients who were in receipt of a medicine for the first time almost 22% of patients

(n=36) were "sometimes" told the reason for new medications while 99.4% of them(n=163) said they were "never" told of the possible side effects.

Table-7 Responses of patients who were in receipt of new medicine

Before giving you any new	Percentage response			
	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Q27.how often did ward staff tell you what the medicine was for?	78%	22%	0%	0%
Q28.how often did ward staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand?	99.4%	0.6%	0%	0%

Survey responses to questions on whether key information was provided at discharge, and if the

surgeon discussed the outcome of surgery done with the patient displayed by table-8 below:

Table-8 Key information.

Q10 Before you left the surgical ward,	Percent 1	esponse
Did the surgeon discuss the outcome of your surgery	Yes	No
with you or whether a key information is provided at		
discharge?	87.2%	12.8%

Overall rating of surgical ward:

Two hundred and fifty patients responded to a question on their overall rating of the surgical ward.

53.6% (n = 134) of patients rated the surgical ward at 7-10 and 46.4% of patients (n = 116) rated it at six or less out of scoring system(0 = worst,1,2,3,...to 10 = the best).

Table-9 Patient's overall rating of surgical ward.

Total	High Rating score(9-10)	Medium Rating score(7-8)	Low Rating score(0-6)
No. of respondents (n= 250)	Score(3-10)	score(7-8)	score(0-0)
Frequency response	17	117	116
Percentage response	6.8%	46.8%	46.4%

The issue of whether a patient would be happy to recommend the surgical ward to their families and friends is a useful indicator of quality of care received (20). In this survey 61.2% (n = 153) of

patients said they would recommend the surgical ward, 38.8 % (n = 97) said they would either "probably not" or "definitely not" recommend the surgical ward to friends or family.

Table-10 patient's response for recommendation of surgical ward to family& friends.

Total No. of respondents (n=250)	Percentage Response			
Q37.Are you happy to recommend this surgical ward to your families and friends?	Definitely yes	Yes	Probably not	Definitel y not
	n=25	n=128	n=61	n=36
	10%	51.2%	24.4%	14.4%

The overall level of satisfaction in emergency service was the highest response for explanation of on-call doctor about the operation (65 %) while the lowest response was for waiting time in emergency for more

than 3 hours (33%), and it was (52.4%) for both the quickness response of the surgical on-call team and about the surgical care provided by the doctors and nurses in ER.

Table-11patient's rates of satisfaction for Emergency services

Emergency Index	Percentage response			
Total number of patients admitted through the Emergency Department= $ (\ n=103\) $	Strongly satisfied	satisfied	dissatisfied	Strongly dissatisfied
Q17 Are you satisfied to the perceived length of waiting time&the service delivery time in ER?	1%	32%	65%	1.9%
Q18Are you satisfied about how quick is the response of the surgical on-call team?	3.9%	48.5%	46.6%	1%
Q19Are you satisfied about the explanation of on-call doctor about the operation?	3.9%	61.2%	35%	0%
Q20Are you satisfied about the surgical care provided by doctors &nursing care in ER?	1.9%	50.5%	46.6%	1%

For the service before operation the lowest rate of satisfaction was for instructions given by surgical ward staff about getting ready for surgery (22%), and the highest was for the clerks & receptionist of the surgical wards (89%) regarding their helpfulness and respectfulness.

10,where 0 is the worst surgeon possible & 10 is the best surgeon possible ,what number would you use to rate all your care from this surgeon).28.8% (n=72) of patients rated the surgeon at 9-10,62% (n=155) of patients rated the surgeon at 7-8 ,and 9.2% (n=23) of patients rated him 0-6 .

Patient rating of the surgeon:

250 patients responded to a question on their overall rating of the Surgeon (Using any number from 0 to

Table-12 patient rating of the surgeon

Total No. of Respondents(n=250)	0 0	Medium rating Score(7-8)	Low rating Score(0-6)
Frequency response	72	155	23
Percentage response	28.8%	62%	9.2%

*In this study we found that patients' satisfaction rate at the private ward was significantly higher than that at the public surgical wards (public ward=53.40%, Private ward=70.80%) as seen in table-13 below. You can notice if we omit the result of the staff

communication with patients about new medicine(0%.0%),the overall satisfaction rate will become 59.22% and 78.66% in public and private ward respectively.

Table-13. Patients' satisfaction rate in both public and private surgical wards.

Patient satisfaction rate regarding::	Public ward	Private ward
Nurse care	63.30%	57.50%
Dactors care	71.50%	75%
Patient needs	42.50	68%
Pain management	56%	85%
Receiving new medicine	0%	0%
Discharge information	84.50%	98%
Ward cleanliness	65%	85%
Ward quietness	43.50%	100%
Ward overall rating	51%	64%
Recommending the ward to family or friends	57.50%	76%
Over all satisfaction rate	53.40%	70.80%

The table-14 below is showing mean responses of participants on level of satisfaction with the surgical care in public surgical ward versus private surgical ward. The patients' mean response on the level of satisfaction at the private ward was significantly higher than that at the public surgical ward and there

were statistically significant difference in responses on the level of satisfaction especially regarding patient needs(p=0.000), managing pain(p=0.004), ward cleanliness(p=0.039) ,ward quietness(p=0.000) and key information provided about discharge and outcome of surgery(p=0.010).

Table-14 cross tabulation of patients mean responses on level of satisfaction in both public and private surgical wards.

		l surgery ards		ANOVA	
Variables	Public ward	Private ward	Total mean	F	p-value
Q1 your care from the nurses	3.52	3.72	3.56	6.72	.010
Q2 =	2.97	2.96	2.97	.006	.939
Q3 =	3.21	3.48	3.27	5.432	.021
Q4 =	1.73	1.42	1.67	6.109	.014
Q5 your care from the Doctors	3.63	3.60	3.62	.102	.750
Q6 =	2.87	2.74	2.84	1.059	.304
Q7 =	2.33	2.46	2.35	1.236	.267
Q8 =	2.77	2.96	2.81	6.714	.010
Q10 Information (outcome ,discharge)	1.15	1.02	1.13	6.653	.010
Q11Surgical Wards' Cleanliness	3.01	3.24	3.06	4.327	.039
Q12=	2.61	2.98	2.68	5.464	.020
Q13Surgical wards' Quietness	2.46	3.36	2.64	41.982	.000
Q14	2.77	2.82	2.78	.459	.499
Q22Staff response to patients' needs	1.34	2.38	1.43	21.913	.000
Q3 =	3.21	3.48	3.27	5.432	.021
Q24Staff response to pain control	2.66	2.70	2.67	.151	.698
Q25=	2.71	3.00	2.77	8.412	.004
Q27Staff communication with patients about new medicine	1.21	1.27	1.22	.442	.507
Q28=	1.01	1.00	1.01	.187	.666
Q33Patients'overall rating of s.ward	1.67	1.80	1.70	1.941	.164
Q37Whether patients recommend surgical ward for family or friends	2.53	2.74	2.57	2.411	.122

The table-15 below shows mean responses of participants on level of satisfaction with the surgical care by age distribution. The study revealed that patients were generally satisfied with the nursing care and doctors care provided with mean response of above (2.00). The respondents in the age groups (55y) were more satisfied in regard with nursing care (mean>3), cleanliness, quietness of the room (mean 3) and pain management (mean=2.85). It also showed that the elderly were more satisfied with the response to their needs provided (mean=3), rating of

surgical ward(mean>2)and recommending it to family(mean 3). All age groups were satisfied with pain management (mean>2.70). The study showed (regarding the age) that there were statistically significant differences in responses on the level of satisfaction especially with cleanliness and quietness provided(p=0.000),response to patients' needs (p=0.001),pain management(p=0.001),rating of surgical ward(p=.000)and recommending it to family(p=0.002).

Table 15: Cross tabulation of participants mean responses on patients' satisfaction by age distribution.

Variables	Age groups ANOVA						ANOVA			
	18- 24y	25- 34y	35- 44y	45- 54y	55- 64y	65- 74y	>74y	Total mean	F	p-value
Q1	3.46	3.57	3.43	3.45	3.73	3.87	4.00	3.65	3.637	.002
Q2	2.75	2.71	2.98	2.90	3.40	3.69	4.00	2.97	2.820	.000
Q4	1.68	1.42	1.74	1.52	1.93	2.06	2.33	1.67	3.276	.004
Q5	3.48	3.71	3.57	3.48	3.73	3.81	4.00	3.62	2.940	.009
Q6	2.70	2.58	2.93	2.61	3.17	3.56	4.00	2.84	8.300	.000
Q7	2.05	2.34	2.54	2.32	2.63	2.44	2.33	2.35	2.705	.015
Q8	2.66	2.86	2.85	2.74	2.90	2.94	2.83	2.81	1.643	.136
Q10	1.07	1.06	1.24	1.29	1.07	1.06	1.17	1.13	3.197	.005
Q11	2.77	2.88	3.13	3.06	3.47	3.50	4.00	3.06	8.530	.000
Q12	2.36	2.45	2.76	2.65	3.10	3.38	4.00	2.68	6.089	.000
Q13	2.32	2.46	2.76	2.48	2.97	3.38	4.00	2.64	6.876	.000
Q22	1.22	1.33	1.22	1.17	1.67	2.13	1.67	1.43	3.320	.005
Q3	3.13	3.23	3.15	3.1	3.63	3.63	4.00	3.27	4.090	.001
Q24	2.55	2.72	2.54	2.55	2.80	2.94	3.33	2.67	2.629	.017
Q25	2.55	2.72	2.76	2.68	2.90	3.19	3.50	2.77	4.080	.001
Q27	1.15	1.18	1.15	1.30	1.29	1.56	1.20	1.22	1.643	.139
Q28	1.00	1.00	1.30	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01	.653	.688
Q33	1.54	1.58	1.70	1.55	2.00	2.13	2.50	1.70	6.815	.000
Q37	2.34	2.45	2.65	2.45	2.83	3.13	3.33	2.57	3.671	.002

Table-16: Cross tabulation of participants' mean responses on the level of satisfaction with surgical care by gender distribution.

		Gender		ANOVA		
Variables	Male	Female	Total Mean	F	p	
Q1 your care from the nurses	3.61	3.49	3.56	3.813	.052	
Q2 =	2.88	3.07	2.97	3.200	0.075	
Q4 =	1.74	1.59	1.67	2.260	.134	
Q5 your care from the Doctors	3.68	3.55	3.62	4.102	.044	
Q6 =	2.71	3.01	2.84	8.783	.003	
Q7 =	2.20	2.54	2.35	12.578	.000	
Q8 =	2.81	2.80	2.81	.035	.852	
Q10 Information (outcome ,discharge)	1.12	1.14	1.13	.463	.497	
Q11 Surgical Wards' Cleanliness	2.91	3.24	3.06	14.924	.000	
Q12 =	2.48	2.94	2.68	13.129	.000	
Q13 Surgical wards' Quietness	2.48	2.85	2.64	9.560	.002	
Q22 Staff response to patients' needs	1.81	1.18	1.43	26.104	.000	
Q3 =	3.31	3.22	3.27	1.017	.314	
Q24 Staff response to pain control	2.73	2.59	2.67	2.556	.111	
Q25 =	2.78	2.76	2.77	.061	.805	
Q27 about new medicine	1.25	1.19	1.22	1.001	.318	
Q28 =	1.01	1.00	1.01	1.076	.301	
Q33 Patients' overall rating of s. ward	1.58	1.85	1.70	13.680	.000	
Q37 recommend surgical ward	2.50	2.67	2.57	2.446	.119	

The table-16 above is showing the mean responses on the level of satisfaction with surgical care by gender distribution. The study revealed that all gender categories were quietly satisfied with surgical care with mean response of above (2.00). Females were more satisfied with surgical ward's cleanliness and quietness with mean response of (3.00) providing (p=0.000) , also females are more satisfied about

doctors care(m=3.00,p=0.001). But the study revealed that

There were no statistically significant differences in responses by gender

Distribution on level of satisfaction of surgical care, p>0.05.

Table-17: Cross tabulation of Participants' mean responses on the level of satisfaction by educational level distribution

				Educa	tion level				ANC	VA
varia bles	Nothing	8th Grade	Some high school	High school	2y degree	4y degree	>4y degree	Total mean	F	p - value
Q1	3.73	3.59	3.43	3.64	3.53	3.50	4.00	3.56	1.907	.080
Q2	3.45	3.05	2.88	3.05	2.58	2.40	4.00	2.97	5.236	.000
Q4	2.03	1.57	1.74	1.71	1.42	1.30	1.00	1.67	2.528	.022
Q5	3.82	3.62	3.52	3.64	3.53	3.70	4.00	3.62	1.759	.108
Q6	3.52	2.84	2.83	2.76	2.37	2.45	2.00	2.84	6.949	.000
Q7	2.48	2.62	2.22	2.38	2.05	2.10	2.00	2.35	2.712	.014
Q8	2.70	2.90	2.75	2.79	2.79	3.00	3.00	2.81	1.450	.196
Q10	1.15	1.10	1.12	1.17	1.16	1.10	1.00	1.13	.255	.957
Q11	3.64	3.26	3.00	2.88	2.58	2.65	2.00	3.06	10.198	.000
Q12	3.55	2.93	2.64	2.48	1.74	2.15	1.00	2.68	11.348	.000
Q13	3.39	2.88	2.45	2.62	1.79	2.35	2.00	2.64	9.093	.000
Q22	1.60	1.37	1.27	1.73	1.00	1.00		1.43	1.626	.161
Q3	3.55	3.26	3.19	3.31	3.11	3.35	4.00	3.27	1.606	.146
Q24	2.88	2.59	2.58	2.76	2.84	2.50	3.00	2.61	1.602	.147
Q25	2.97	2.86	2.65	2.79	2.79	2.55	3.00	2.77	1.629	.140
Q27	1.22	1.22	1.19	1.40	1.13	1.15	1.00	1.22	.857	.528
Q28	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01	1.209	.304
Q33	2.15	1.81	1.61	1.62	1.37	1.40	2.00	1.70	6.679	.000
Q37	3.00	2.72	2.48	2.55	1.95	2.45	2.00	2.57	3.901	.001

The table-17 above is showing the mean responses on the level of satisfaction with surgical care by level of education distribution. The study revealed that patients with low level of education were more satisfied than those with high level of education regarding wards' cleanliness and quietness, regarding rating for the surgical wards and lastly recommending it for the family and friends providing (p=0.000). (p=0.000) and (p=0.001) respectively.

*To evaluate the effect of some factors(that patients attach great importance to them) on patients'

satisfaction like the living conditions, the appearance of rooms on the ward, the comfort of a patient room, its aesthetic appearance and how well itis equipped ,we did the statistical liability analysis for them and tables(18,19,20) revealed that there were statistically significant difference in responses to these factors(the living conditions, the appearance of rooms on the ward, the comfort of a patient room, its aesthetic appearance and how well it is equipped)on level of satisfaction of surgical care, p <0.05. It provides (F=464.840, p=0.000).

Table-18 statistical liability analysis of the surgical ward environment

	Mean	Std.	N
		Deviation	
surgical ward	1.20	.401	250
Q11How often your room(ward) kept clean?	3.06	.689	250
Q12How often your bathroom kept clean?	2.68	1.010	250
Q13How often was the area around your room quiet at night?	2.64	.943	250
Q14Are you satisfied about the aesthetic appearance and the comfort of your room on the ward?	2.78	.513	250

Table-19 statistical liability analysis of the surgical ward environment (ANOVA)

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Between People	413.575	249	1.661		
Between	532.667	4	133.167	464.840	.000
Items					
Within People					
Residual	285.333	996	.286		
Total	818.000	1000	.818		
Total	1231.575	1249	.986		

Grand Mean = 2.47

Table-20 Summary Item Statistics of surgical ward environment

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Maximum / Minimum	Variance	N of Items
Item Means	2.473	1.200	3.060	1.860	2.550	.533	5
Inter-Item Correlations	.468	.043	.818	.775	19.033	.072	5

Discussion

The significant structural changes in the social and economic systems in Iraq have led to transformation and commercialization of many concept of life, including the medical service sector. The changes affected not only the structures, but also the patients' thinking mode ,their way of perceiving a health care unit and the service it offers. Patients have become more demanding, they have started to behave like customers (clients) and expect the same quality of service as in the case of consumer goods. This new situation requires a medical organization to take into consideration patients' needs ,to listen to them, to improve the quality of its services, and to evaluate what factors both subjective and objective influence the satisfaction with hospitalization of patients undergoing surgery as a method to cure their disease.

The research showed that patients attach great importance to factors associated with response to their needs in addition to solving patient's health problems by a qualified surgeon like the living conditions, the appearance of rooms on the ward, the comfort of a patient room, its aesthetic appearance and how well it is equipped(Table-4,5,19). They affect the overall assessment of quality of medical services and are the basis of recommendation of the facility by the patient to his/her family, and friends, and also significantly influence the decision whether a patient wants to go back to the same facility again when the need arises. Other authors who conducted similar research also came to similar conclusions (16,17,18,19,20,21).

The results of this paper also indicate that the expression of empathy, competence of the medical staff, how they communicate with patients and share the information about the disease, treatment and patient's involvement in the healing process are the factors that may impact patient's satisfaction with treatment in surgical ward. A similar position on this issue is presented by other researchers who found that the more medical staff is willing to express empathy, the better the patients assess their competence and, consequently, patients are more satisfied with their stay in a hospital and the course of treatment(34).

An interesting finding in this study was the results we find in table 5 in regard of the response of the nursing staff to the patients' need of help; where around 84% of respondents declare that they get help as soon as they needed it and no single patient mark on the never response for this item and when referring to next question which was asking about the help in getting to the bath or using the bed pan; 65% responded by never

which reflected the low expectations of our patients in which they disregard this type of help as part of duties of the nursing staff.A patient in assessing the overall quality of medical service, pays attention to all aspects of the service, including the organizational and aesthetic value which she/he was able to observe during a stay in the surgical ward. The general impression appeared to be extremely important for patients. The study confirmed that the overall impression of the hospital in conjunction with a patient's emotional reaction, influence his/her satisfaction with the stay and treatment in a health care facility. Similar relationships between the perception of service and overall satisfaction of a patient were reported by other researchers. The results of their work reveals that the overall impression received by a patient as well as personnel's empathy and response to patient's expectations are as important as strictly medical side of medical service [16,28,29,30,31,32,33].

The obtained results confirmed that the patients residing in private surgical ward, often declare a higher level of satisfaction with the quality of medical service provided (although those patients should be more demanding because they had paid for medical services) than the patients of public surgical ward. Which again reflect the fact that meeting the emotional needs of patients is therefore an important area of medical care that should be provided to patients treated surgically which had a relation with aesthetic appearance and quietness of the room (because the rooms are separated and a single patient in each room) Table-14,18,19,20.

Patient's satisfaction with hospital treatment, including surgery, is combined with interpersonal relationships (doctor-patient, nurse-patient), proper communication, information on diagnosis and pharmacological treatment. It has a strong and positive impact on the patient's overall experience of treatment and hospital stay. Statistical analysis of the results of this research showed that in each of the ten dimensions of the analyzed medical service, in both surgical wards, the assessment of the facts and expectations of patients in terms of satisfaction with the surgical procedure and care received during the stay at a surgical ward was highly impacted by the patient's level of education. Patients with higher level of education who were hospitalized in both wards had lower expectations in each of the analyzed dimensions of quality in medical service. The reason for this probably stems from the

fact that this group is more aware of the necessity of surgery, has a greater awareness of the necessity of the fight against the disease and considers a treatment primarily in terms of improving health and restoring normal bodily functions. Because of this, these people often show their satisfaction with treatment in the surgical ward. A similar position on this issue is presented by other authors, who argue that patient's satisfaction with treatment is dependent on patient's individual characteristics such as age, sex, education and the state of physical and mental health [22,23,24,25,26,27]. In this paper, however, we did find connections between age and education of the patients and their satisfaction with treatment.

Other factors which we found in our survey which negatively influence patient satisfaction in the emergency department was the long waiting time (more than 3 hours), and the quick response of the surgical on-call team(Table-11), while the explanation of ward staff about new medicine given to the patients (what was the medicine for? and the possible side effects) and the explanation of surgical team about lifestyle after surgery (eating habits, wound management, having shower and exercise), had negative influence on the overall patients' satisfaction in this research(table-7). We recommend hospital management to address these factors to improve patient satisfaction(table-11). We can see that the technical quality of medical service is closely correlated with patient's perception of interpersonal elements of health care. Thus, the involvement of patients in the therapeutic process has a positive effect on their satisfaction with their hospital stay. Wellmanaged hospitals, constantly wanting to improve this image, must pay attention to the quality of service, efficiency of operations and the maximization of the efforts to secure full satisfaction of the patient. Such actions are the way to a positive image of the surgical ward and the hospital in the eyes of patients, which would have a very positive impact on changing the hostile view of a lot of people toward doctors and health services).

Conclusion

Concluding this article, we can say that neither of the analyzed surgical wards fulfilled all of patients' expectations, but the private surgical ward was assessed as significantly better.

* Improvements in communication and proper planning with the quality of medical services provided

for the patients which would mitigate the anxiety and fear they feel in relation to their peri-operative experience.

* Gathering postoperative patient feed back regarding the quality of care to help inform the system of opportunities for improvement.

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Appendix I: Questionnaire for data collection

	Name:-		Code:					
	Age:- Type of admission:	Gender:	File No.: type of surgery:-					
	Hospital:	Ward:	Admission Duration]			
*your care from	n nurses:-				_			
Q1:- How often	did nurses treat you	with courtesy	& respect?					
Never	sometimes	usually	always					
Q2:- How often	did nurses listen ca	refully to you	and explain things in a	way you	could un	dersta	nd?	
Never	sometimes	usually	always					
Q3:- How often wanted it?	did you get help as	soon as you						
Never	sometimes	usually	always					
Q4:- Did any one	e in this surgical wa	ard give you ea	asy to understand instru	ctions abo	out gettin	g read	y for y	our surgery?
yes	definitely yes	somewha	t No					
*your care from	1 doctors:-							
Never Never	sometimes	usually	always					
Q6:- How often concerns?	did doctors listen ca	arefully to you	and give easy to under	stand info	ormation	about	health •	questions or
Never	sometimes	usually	always					
Q7:- Before your questions?	surgery did your so	urgeon encour	age you to ask					
yes	definitely yes	somewha	t No					

Q8:- Did your surgeon show respect for what you had to say?
yes definitely yes somewhat No
Q9:- After you arrived at the surgical facility, did this surgeon visit you before your surgery?
yesNo
Q10:- Before you left the surgical ward, did this surgeon discuss the outcome of your surgery with you?
yesNo
*The hospital & surgical ward environment:-
Q11:- How often were your room (ward) kept clean?
Never sometimes usually always
Q12:- How often were your bathroom kept clean?
Never sometimes usually always
Q13:- How often was the area around your room quiet at night?
Never usually always
Q14:- Are you satisfied about the aesthetic appearance & the comfort of your room on the ward?
Strongly satisfied satisfied strongly dissatisfied
Q15:- Does you satisfy about the quality of food in the hospital?
Strongly satisfied satisfied strongly dissatisfied
*Emergency Index:-
Q16:- Were you admitted to this hospital through the emergency room ?
yes No
Q17:- Are you satisfied to the perceived length of waiting time & the service delivery time in ER?
Strongly satisfied satisfied dissatisfied strongly dissatisfied

Q18:- Are you satisfied about how quick is the response of the surgical on- call team?
Strongly satisfied satisfied strongly dissatisfied
Q19:- Are you satisfied about the explanation of on-call doctor about the operation?
Strongly satisfied satisfied strongly dissatisfied
Q20:- Are you satisfied about the surgical care provided by the doctors & the nusing care in ER?
Strongly satisfied satisfied dissatisfied strongly dissatisfied
*Your experiences in surgical ward:-
Q21:- Did you need help from nurses or other staff in getting to the bathroom or in using a bedpan?
yes No ((if No go to Q23))
Q22:- How often did you get help in getting to the bathroom or in using a bedpan as soon as you wanted?
Never sometimes usually alway s
Q23:- During this ward stay did you need medicine for pain?
yes No ((if No go to Q26))
Q24:- How often was your pain well controlled?
Never sometimes usually s
Q25:- How often did the ward staff do every thing they could to help you with your pain?
Never sometimes usually alway s
Q26:- Were you given any medicine that you had not taken before ?
yes ((if No go to Q29))
Q27:- Before giving you any new medicine, how often did ward staff tell you what the medicine was for?
Never sometimes usually alway s

Q28:- Before giving you any new medicine, how often did ward staff describe possible side effects in a way you could understand?
Never sometimes usually s
Q29:- How often did someone from ward staff followed up with you to give results of blood test, X-rays or other tests?
Never sometimes usually salway
*Clerks & receptionist of the hospital & surgical ward:-
Q30:- How often did clerks & receptionist are helpful?
Never usually always
Q31:- How often did clerks & receptionist are courteous & respectful?
Never sometimes usually always
*Patient rating of the surgeon:-
Q32:- Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst surgeon possible & 10 is the best surgeon possible, what number would you use to rate all your care from this surgeon?
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 *Overall rating of the surgical ward:-
Q33:- Using any number from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst surgical ward possible & 10 is the best surgical ward possible, what number would you use to rate this surgical ward?
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
*About you:-
Q34:What is the highest grade or level school that you have completed? Q35 What is your age?
Nothing 18-24y
8 th . Grade or less
Some high school, but did not graduate 35-44y

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	High school graduate	45-54y	
	Some college or 2-year degree	55-64y	
	4-year college graduate	65-74y	
	More than 4-year college degree	>74y	
//Q36:- In general how would you rate your overall health?			
	Excellent		
Q37:- Are you happy to recommend this surgical department to your families & friends?			
	Yes definitely yes probably not definite	ely not	

الردهات وجهة لها المتلقين الجراحية الرعاية الجراحية

العظيم وليد بكالوريوس

هديل . بكالوريوس الطبية والتوليد النسائية

: خلفية يستخدم الجراحية للرعاية متزايد الصحية يساعد شأنه ألنه الرعاية المتلقين مهم نهاية يساعد يمكن وه الرعاية تطلعاتهم بتلبية الجراحية الرعاية تحسين رضاهم هدف الجراحية الردهات الجراحية الرعاية وخبراتهم طريقة تهدف وصفية يتعلق فيما عنها ورضاهم الجراحية الرعاية الجراحية الردهات مدينة / الطبية 2013 استبيان أبريل بين االستبيان 58.5 (االستبيان هذا للمشاركين الجراحية الرعاية) ,)60.6 الجراحية الرعاية االستبيان المشاركين حين) 56.5() .)72.2 رعاية يتعلق فيما ورضاهم 67.6((إحصائية والبيئة التعليم معهم االيجابية وفريق التمريضي وتطوير ليم والتخطيط الجراحية والعناية الطبية شأنها هي به یشعرون وتجاربهم بخبرتهم . الجراحية العملية الجراحية الرعاية يخص فيما المريض االسترجاعية التغذية) (لتحسين

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Subject: Medical Sciences		
DOI:10.22192/ijarbs.2019.06.02.023		

How to cite this article:

Walid Khalid Abduladhim, & Hadeel Qahtan Khalaf. (2019). Quality of surgical care and satisfaction from the patients' perspective in the surgical ward. Int. J. Adv. Res. Biol. Sci. 6(2): 211-235.

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijarbs.2019.06.02.023