

# IMPROVING THE CONSENT PROCESS FOR CORONECTOMY PROCEDURES

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## Introduction

A coronectomy may be offered to patients at a higher risk of inferior alveolar nerve injury as an alternative to complete wisdom tooth extraction, with the aim of reducing the risk of nerve injury.<sup>1</sup> Obtaining consent prior to any procedure is an essential on-going process between the patient and clinician.<sup>2</sup> We identified a lack of consistency in the information provided to patients regarding coronectomies within our oral surgery department.

## Objective

To assess the consent process for coronectomy procedures and identify opportunities to improve quality and consistency.

## Standard

100% of patients undergoing a coronectomy should receive all the information necessary to enable them to make an informed decision.

Gold standard to include details on:

- Options  Consequences of no treatment
- Nature of coronectomy  Benefits  Risks

## Method

Cycle 1 (01/08/2019 - 31/20/2019, 15 patients)

- Retrospective data collection
- Each element of consent graded: '1' or '0'
- Percentage compliance calculated

Cycle 2 (01/12/2019 - 29/02/2020, 15 patients)

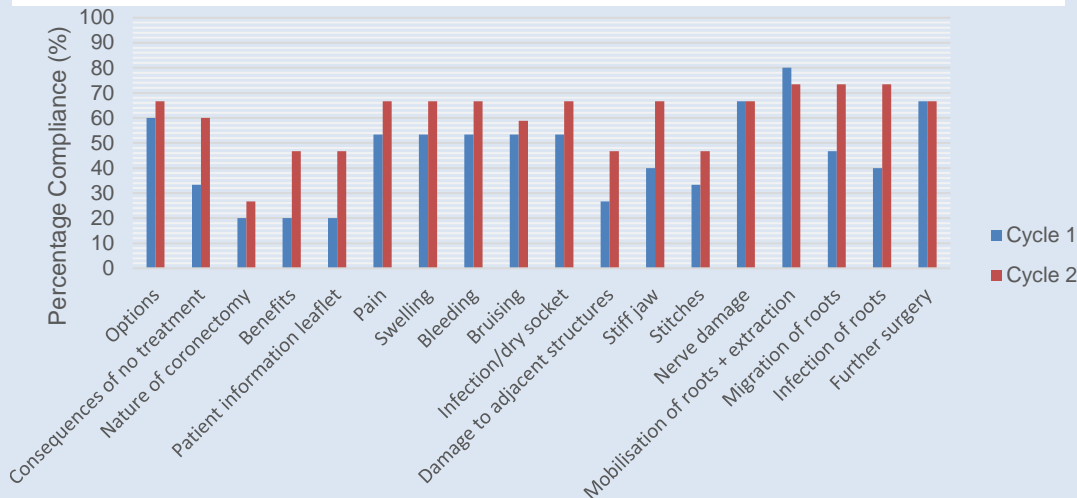
- Prospective data collection

## Interventions

- Departmental educational session
- Patient information published for the local health board

## Results

- Cycle 1 significant shortfall of departmental standard. Most commonly omitted components: consequences of no treatment, nature of coronectomy procedure and intended benefits.
- Cycle 2 demonstrated an improvement across almost all elements of consent with some areas improving by over 100%.
- Across both cycles a significant variation between clinicians was identified.



## Conclusions

Through conducting a two-cycle audit we were able to demonstrate improvements in the quality of our consent process for coronectomy procedures. However, continual improvements and reinforcement through re-audit will be necessary, especially to address the discrepancy between clinicians. The patient information leaflet was widely distributed throughout the service providing patients with written information to reflect upon and is now an integral part to our consent process. Finally, we suggest the introduction of a patient questionnaire to assess the patient's understanding and to gain a greater insight regarding the quality of our consent process.

## References

- Long H, Zhou Y, Liao L, Pyakurel U, Wang Y, Lai W. Coronectomy vs. Total Removal for Third Molar Extraction. *Journal of Dental Research*. 2012;91(7):659-665.
- Standards for the Dental Team [Internet]. [Standards.gdc-uk.org](https://standards.gdc-uk.org). 2013 [cited 29 December 2020]. Available from: <https://standards.gdc-uk.org/Assets/pdf/Standards%20for%20the%20Dental%20Team.pdf>