THE ASSOCIATION OF PATIENT COPING AND EXPECTATIONS ABOUT RECOVERY WITH CHRONIC POST-SURGICAL PAIN AND PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING AFTER TRAUMATIC FRACTURE REPAIR

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

Patient's recovery expectations are associated with several clinical outcomes, yet there is very little evidence evaluating their association with chronic post-surgical pain (CPSP) and function following severe physical trauma. We designed a study to explore the role of patients’ beliefs in their likelihood of recovery from surgical repair of traumatic open extremity fractures.

METHODS

At 1-week post-surgical fixation, we administered the Somatic Preoccupation and Coping (SPOC) Questionnaire to 1685 patients with an open extremity fracture; a total of 1674 patients completed the SPOC questionnaire at 6-weeks post-surgical fixation. The SPOC instrument measures patients’ somatic coping, and optimism regarding their recovery. We explored the association of SPOC scores with CPSP and Short Form-12 (SF-12) physical component summary and mental component summary scores at 1-year after surgery, adjusting for age, sex, ethnicity, smoking status, alcohol consumption, fracture type and severity, use of opioids prior to injury, the presence of co-morbidity, degree of cortical continuity following fixation, and size of post-operative fracture gap.

RESULTS

We are in the process of finalizing our analyses, which will be completed by May 2016.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

If we find that poor coping and lower expectations for recovery are an independent predictor of CPSP and functional impairment following surgical fixation, this will encourage clinical trials to explore whether these factors can be modified and improve prognosis.

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