

# INFORMED CONSENT

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August 2007

# 3 Elements of Informed Consent

- A competent patient
- Provision of adequate information
- Voluntary Choice

# In Legal Terms

- The patient must be adequately informed
- The patient must be competent to consent
- The patient gives consent without coercion- without feeling pressure or being forced.

# Informed Consent Should Include

- The Surgeon performing the procedure
- The Patients medical condition
- The Purpose of the Procedure
- The Risks
- The alternatives
- Success/Failure rate
- recovery

# When may Informed Consent not be necessary

- Emergency surgery and the patient is unconscious or incapacitated
- Elective surgery when the patient is unconscious or has a mental disability - consent is made via court decision

# Key Points of Consent

- Before the start of treatment consent must be obtained
- Adults are assumed competent unless demonstrated otherwise
- The person treating the patient should gain consent
- Patients need access to sufficient information prior to consent

# Key Points of Consent

- Consent must be voluntary
- Consent can be written, oral or non-verbal
- Competent adults are entitled to refuse consent
- No-one can give a consent on behalf of a adult.

# Random study of 100 surgical patients on information

- 24 did not know their diagnosis
- 36 did not know the operation prior to surgery
- 75 were told the operation after surgery
- 68 did not know what to expect
- 87 did not know about complications

# Random study of 100 surgical patients on pain management

- Pain score of 4-5 (0-5 scale) felt by 24 on rest and 46 on movement
- 29 patients were not satisfied with pain management
- Analgesia given at too long an interval up to 12hours

# Conclusion

- Informed consent is more than simply getting a patient to sign a written consent form. It is a process of communication between a patient and Doctor that results in the patient's agreement to undergo surgery or an investigation.

