P02-296

MODELLING THE EFFECT OF MINOR ORTHOPAEDIC DAY SURGERY ON PATIENT MOOD AT THE EARLY POST-OPERATIVE PERIOD: A PROSPECTIVE POPULATION-BASED STUDY

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Objective: The effect of minor orthopaedic day surgery (MiODS) on patient's mood.

Methods: A prospective population-based cohort study of 148 consecutive patients with age above 18 and less than 65, an American Society of Anaesthesiology (ASA) score of 1, and the requirement of General Anaesthesia (GA) were included. The Medical Outcomes Study-Short Form 36 (SF-36), Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI) and Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) were used pre- and postoperatively.

Results: The mean physical component score of SF-36 before surgery was 45.3 (SD = ± 10.1) and 8 weeks following surgery was 44.9 (SD = ± 11.04) [n = 148, p = 0.51, 95%CI = (-1.03 -1.52)]. For the measurement of the changes in mood using BDI, BAI and SF-36, latent construct modelling was employed to increase validity. The covariance between mood pre- and post-operatively (cov = 69.44) corresponded to a correlation coefficient, r = 0.88 indicating that patients suffering a greater number of mood symptoms before surgery continue to have a greater number of symptoms following surgery. When the latent mood constructs were permitted to have different means the model fitted well with χ^2 (df = 1) = 0.86 for which p = 0.77, thus the null hypothesis that MiODS has no effect on patient mood was rejected.

Conclusions: MiODS affects patient mood which deteriorates at 8 weeks post-operatively regardless of the pre-operative patient mood state. More importantly patients suffering a greater number of mood symptoms before MiODS continue to have a greater number of symptoms following surgery.