



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

THE SAHLGRENKA ACADEMY

THE SURGEON EXPERIENCE DURING THE MANAGEMENT OF PROSTHETIC JOINT INFECTIONS

EAPH 2019-05-21

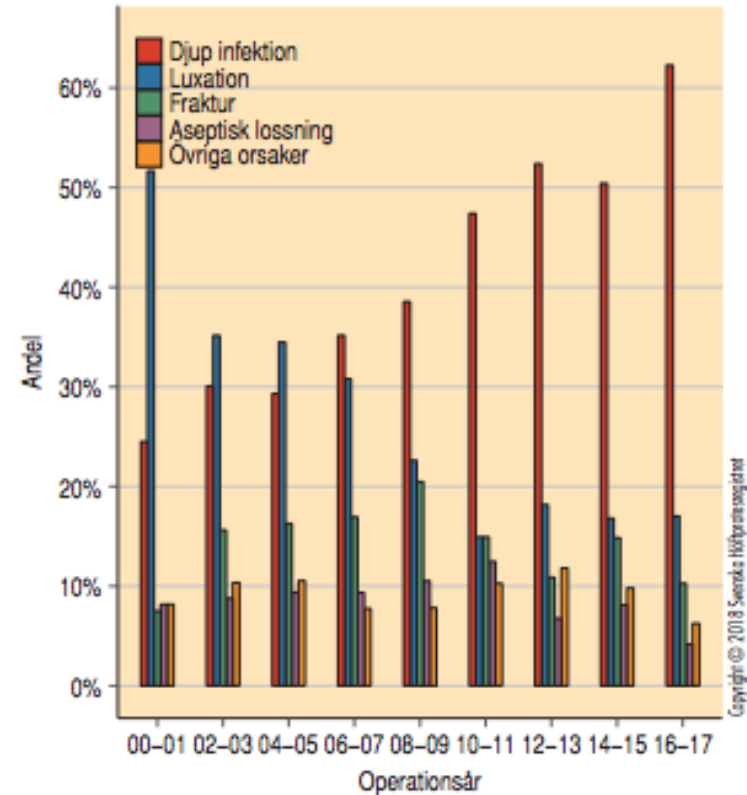
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Background

- PJI = prosthetic joint infection
- 33 000 primary THR +TKR
- 1-2 % infection incidence
- Greater problem
- 5 x cost of primary THR/TKR
- Patient suffering





Background

- *"Your life is destroyed, absolutely destroyed. There is nothing you can do [...] For someone like me who lived a very physically active life —and I'm a very gregarious person, I would have happily—in fact I would have happily ended it all. I stood at the top of the stairs many times and thought, "If I just went, could I guarantee that this would get me out of this?" because it was that desperate, and I'm a very strong person..."*

- Moore et al. 2015



Background



Photo 1: Ola Rolfson

Photo 2: <http://www.findyourbalance.ca/physiotherapy/post-op-rehab/total-knee-replacement/>



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Background





Background

- Negative feelings  depression, anxiety, burnout?





Aim

- To investigate the experiences and emotional impact of PJI on orthopaedic surgeons, and what support they may need.



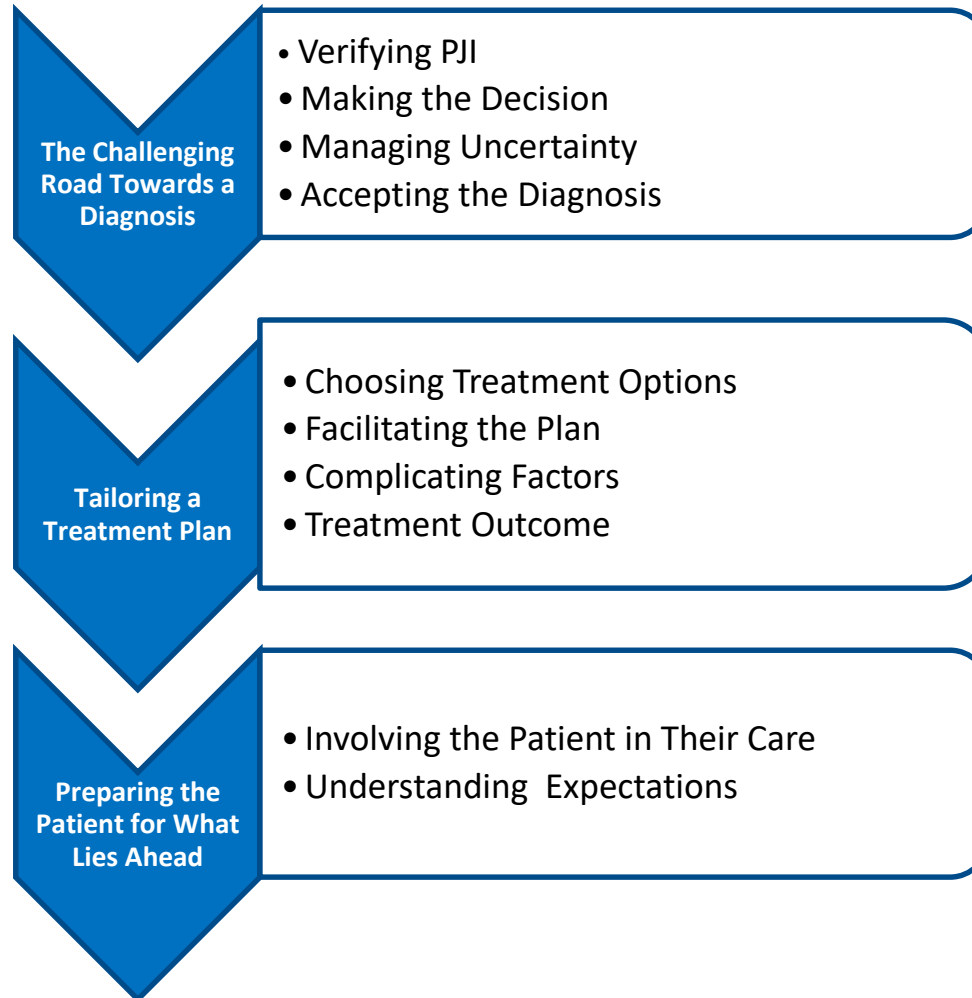
Materials and methods

- Purposive sampling
- 18 participants, 4 female + 14 male
- Age: 40-75 years
- Range of experience: 4-38 years
- Semi-structured interviews

- Qualitative content analysis, *Graneheim et al.*



Results





Results

The Relationship Between Surgeon and Patient

- Its Impact
- Trust and Blame
- Taking Care of "Own" Patients



The Emotional Impact of Caring for Patients With PJI

- The Feeling of Guilt
- Coping With Difficult Feelings
- The Need for Support



Results - quotes

”One feels guilty when it’s one’s own patient, but thinks that the feeling of guilt is a bit irrational”

“One feels accountable for the infection despite having been involved in the case and therefore not knowing what caused the infection”

“It makes me sad and disappointed every time because it feels like a personal failure.”



Results





Results – moving forward

- An understanding healthcare system
- Work team based
- Increase competence levels
- More structured management
- Technological advances



Discussion

- Negative impact of adverse events – long term impact?
- Facilitate the management of PJI – structured support, multi-disciplinary approach.
- Applicable on other surgical specialties
- Limitation: homogenous study group
- Strengths: generalizability - coherence with previous studies, trustworthiness.



Conclusion

- There are negative feelings associated with PJI. The possibility of receiving support is brought forth as the most important coping strategy and should perhaps, in a structured form, be offered to all surgeons dealing with adverse events.



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THANK YOU!