

Thesis Title	Patients' Information Needs in Perioperative Care: Perception of Patients and Nurses at the Hospital of University Science Malaysia
Author	Miss Norazliah Samsudin
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ABSTRACT

The goal of this descriptive comparative study is to identify the level of patients' needs for information during perioperative care as perceived by surgical patients and surgical nurses. This study examined the differences in perceptions between surgical patients and surgical nurses. Ten surgical wards in the Hospital of University Science Malaysia (HUSM) were selected. The subjects included 100 surgical patients who underwent surgery and 130 surgical nurses who cared for preoperative and postoperative patients. The subjects were selected using non-probability purposive sampling. Data were obtained using self-report questionnaires. Form 1 (Patients version) and Form 2 (Nurses version) were used for assessing the perceptions of surgical patients and surgical nurses, respectively. Five experts tested the content validity of both instruments, and the reliability was obtained by Cronbach's alpha coefficients with values of .93 and .95, respectively. The data were processed with SPSS for Window version 11.5. The data were then analyzed using descriptive statistic and independent *t*-test for answering the research questions.

The results show patients and nurses perceived patients' information needs as being at moderate to high levels of need. The mean level of patients' perception of information needs in perioperative care was 208.19 (*SD* = 25.59), and nurses' perception of patients' information needs in perioperative care was 211.31 (*SD* = 22.93), indicating high level of needs. Overall, the differences of patients' information needs concerning perioperative care as perceived by patients and nurses were not significantly different ($t = -.97, p > .05$). However, there were significant differences in two dimensions at the preoperative phase - sensation-discomfort information ($t = -3.17, p < .01$), and patients' role information ($t = -2.25, p < .05$), four dimensions at the intraoperative phase - situational or procedural information ($t = 2.13, p < .05$), sensation-discomfort information ($t = -3.26, p < .01$), patients' role information ($t = -2.18, p < .05$), and psychosocial support

information ($t = 3.98, p < .01$), and one dimension in the postoperative phase – situational or procedural ($t = 2.14, p < .05$). Moreover, there were no significant differences in the remaining three dimensions in the preoperative phase, and three dimensions in the postoperative phase.

Overall, surgical patients and surgical nurses showed congruence in perception of patients' information needs in perioperative care. They also showed incongruent perceptions in some dimensions at three phases of perioperative care. However, nurses should understand surgical patients' experiences and identify their needs associated with each phase of perioperative care. Providing the information based on patients' perceived needs will help patients have more positive surgical experiences. This will help them to increase their self-confidence while facing surgery.