

Clinical encounters recorded by patients: what do surgeons think?

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Introduction

Rising reports in the media of patients recording clinical encounters without physician’s knowledge

In some cases has led to legal action

Various opinion pieces online supporting and against this practice

No formal survey examining physician’s attitudes

Policy lacking in guiding physicians to navigate new clinical dilemmas in our digital world

Is there a difference in attitude between trainees and attending surgeons with this practice?

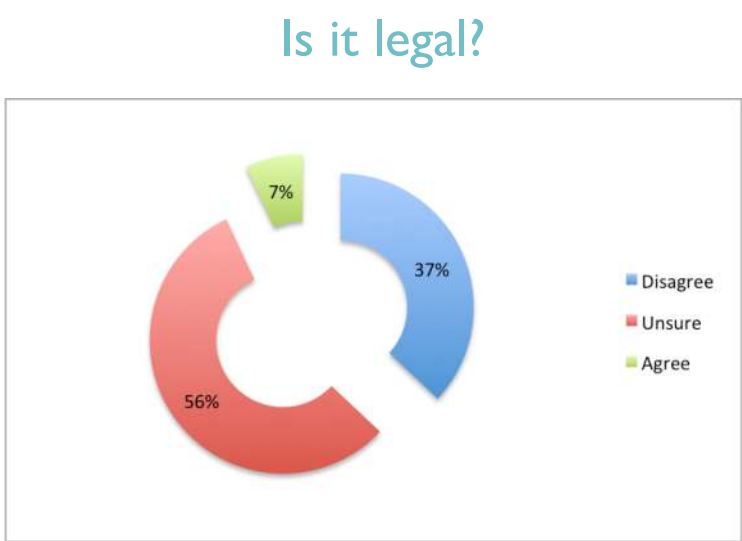
Methods

Anonymous online survey tool

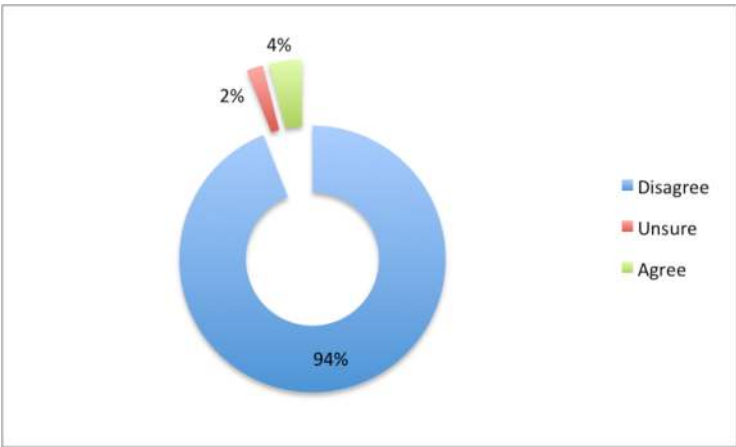
Administered to trainees and attending surgeons in large academic department of surgery

Standard t-test applied for statistical analysis comparing attitudes of trainees and attending surgeons

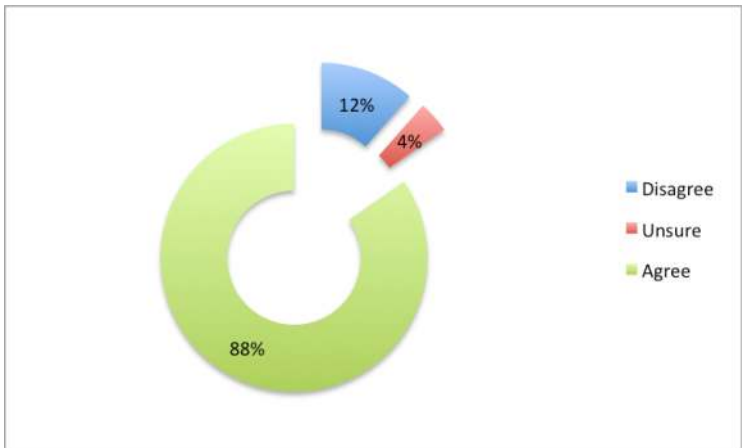
Results



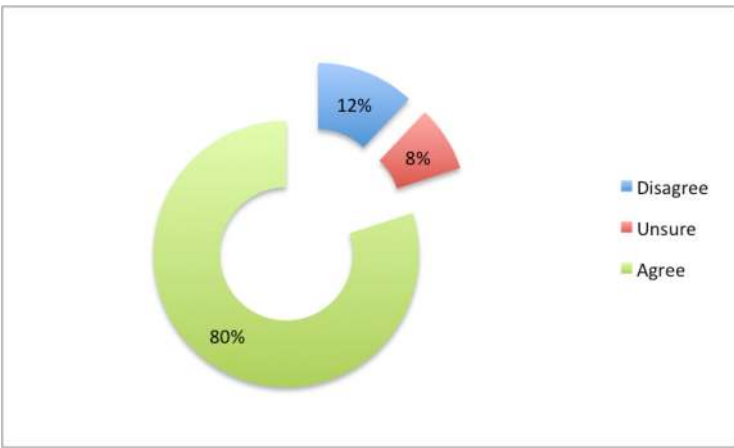
Is it reasonable for patients to record without your knowledge?



Are you concerned about medico-legal implications?



Would it affect the therapeutic relationship with your patient?



| When discussing difficult information with patients (eg. Cancer diagnosis), a discussion without any memory aide (eg. audio recordings or written materials) is sufficient. | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Completely Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Unsure | Somewhat Agree | Completely Agree | Total | Weighted Average |
| Q3: Resident/Fellow (A) | 5.26% <div>2C</div> | 28.95% <div>11</div> | 10.53% <div>4</div> | 28.95% <div>11</div> | 26.32% <div>10</div> | 36.19% <div>38</div> | 3.42 |
| Q3: Attending (< 5 years) (B) | 11.76% <div>2</div> | 23.53% <div>4</div> | 17.65% <div>3</div> | 47.06% <div>8</div> | 0.00% <div>0</div> | 16.19% <div>17</div> | 3.00 |
| Q3: Attending (> 5 years) (C) | 22.00% <div>11A</div> | 20.00% <div>10</div> | 12.00% <div>6</div> | 26.00% <div>13</div> | 20.00% <div>10</div> | 47.62% <div>50</div> | 3.02 |

| It is reasonable for a patient to request recording of their clinical encounter. | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Completely Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Unsure | Somewhat Agree | Completely Agree | Total | Weighted Average |
| Q3: Resident/Fellow (A) | 16.22% <div>6C</div> | 18.92% <div>7</div> | 13.51% <div>5</div> | 37.84% <div>14</div> | 13.51% <div>5C</div> | 35.92% <div>37</div> | 3.14 |
| Q3: Attending (< 5 years) (B) | 11.76% <div>2</div> | 29.41% <div>5</div> | 35.29% <div>6</div> | 11.76% <div>2</div> | 11.76% <div>2</div> | 16.50% <div>17</div> | 2.82 |
| Q3: Attending (> 5 years) (C) | 0.00% <div>0A</div> | 8.16% <div>4</div> | 18.37% <div>9</div> | 34.69% <div>17</div> | 38.78% <div>19A</div> | 47.57% <div>49</div> | 4.04 |

| I would be concerned about a recording of a clinical encounter being used against me in the setting of a medico-legal dispute. | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Completely Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Unsure | Somewhat Agree | Completely Agree | Total | Weighted Average |
| Q3: Resident/Fellow (A) | 0.00% <div>0</div> | 0.00% <div>0C</div> | 13.89% <div>5</div> | 52.78% <div>19C</div> | 33.33% <div>12</div> | 34.95% <div>36</div> | 4.19 |
| Q3: Attending (< 5 years) (B) | 6.25% <div>1</div> | 6.25% <div>1</div> | 6.25% <div>1</div> | 43.75% <div>7</div> | 37.50% <div>6</div> | 15.53% <div>16</div> | 4.00 |
| Q3: Attending (> 5 years) (C) | 0.00% <div>0</div> | 29.17% <div>14A</div> | 12.50% <div>6</div> | 29.17% <div>14A</div> | 29.17% <div>14</div> | 46.60% <div>48</div> | 3.58 |

Conclusion

Surgeons’ opinions vary on the utility of recording clinical encounters.

When comparing trainees to attendings, trainees were less likely to value clinical recordings and more likely to believe it has harmful consequences.