

Depression influences post-op satisfaction in older patients

October 30 2014



(HealthDay)—For older patients undergoing revision lumbar surgery, preoperative depression influences patient satisfaction two years after surgery, according to research published in the Sept. 1 issue of *Spine*.

Owoicho Adogwa, M.D., M.P.H., from Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., and colleagues examined the impact of preoperative depression on [patient satisfaction](#) after revision lumbar surgery. The cohort included 69 [patients](#) aged 65 years or older undergoing revision neural decompression and instrumented fusion for same-level recurrent stenosis-associated back and leg pain. For all patients the authors assessed preoperative Zung self-rating depression score, comorbidities, and postoperative satisfaction with surgical care and outcome.

The researchers found that after surgery there was a statistically significant improvement in visual analog score (VAS)-back pain and

VAS-leg pain compared with baseline. After surgery, the two-year Oswestry Disability Index improved for pseudarthrosis, adjacent segment disease, and same-level recurrent stenosis. There was an independent correlation between increasing preoperative Zung self-rated depression scale scores and patient dissatisfaction two years after revision lumbar [surgery](#), in a multivariate logistic regression model (P

"Quality improvement initiatives using patient satisfaction as a proxy for quality of care should account for patients' baseline [depression](#) as a potential confounder especially in this age group," the authors write.

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Citation: Depression influences post-op satisfaction in older patients (2014, October 30)
retrieved 28 April 2024 from
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-10-depression-post-op-satisfaction-older-patients.html>

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