

Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Submitting author: Dr Chung Yan Tommy CHAN **Post title:** Resident, Kong Kong Eye Hospital, KCC

Reasons of cataract surgery cancellations in an ambulatory surgical center

Chan TC Lam NM Hong Kong Eye Hospital

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Introduction

Cancellation of cataract surgery on the day of surgery is a great disappointment for the patients and the surgeons. It is wastage of resources and an opportunity cost to other patients on the waiting list especially cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed procedures.

Objectives

This audit aims at reducing cancellation of scheduled cataract surgery through reviewing the reasons of cancellation and providing suggestions to minimize cancellations

Methodology

This is a retrospective audit reviewing all the elective cataract surgery scheduled from July 2011 to November 2011. Elective cataract surgery such as extra-capsular cataract extraction and phacoemulsification were included in this audit. Information regarding the total number of cataract surgery and cancellation of surgery was collected from the Operation Logbook of Hong Kong Eye Hospital. The reasons for cancellation were recorded from the medical records of each patient.

Result

The cancellation rate was 4.2%. The top 5 reasons of elective cataract surgery cancellation were poor hypertension control, patient no showed for surgery, patient declined surgery, poor eye condition and poor diabetes control. Several ways were suggested in order to reduce number of cancellation. The audit results were presented in Medical Committee Meeting and Quality Assurance Forum in the early 2012. The suggested changes were put into practice afterward. Reduction in elective cataract surgery cancellation was therefore expected. A re-audit has been conducted reviewing the elective cataract surgery scheduled and cancelled from July 2012 to November 2012. The cancellation rate had reduced to 3.5%.