

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Research – Case Study

**Provided by:**

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**How patients and the public were/ are involved**

Arthritis Research UK and the NIHR Oxford Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit jointly funded the ‘technology enhanced patient information study’ (TEPI). A new type of web based patient information for common orthopaedic operations was developed with patients for patients.

Patient focus groups were held and then the new enhanced information modality was tested on patients undergoing surgery for a common shoulder and a common knee operation.

The focus groups were made up of patients in Oxford who had already been through their treatments and surgery and were happy to attend and review the initial new patient information and then help guide the further changes to this information and its presentation. Once these views were accounted for and changes made, a new group of patients were recruited from the shoulder and knee clinics and they used the new information modality in the build up to their surgery and afterwards. They were then interviewed at home 6-8 weeks after surgery about any remaining unmet information needs. These interviews were then used to further improve the new information based on this patient feedback:

<http://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/research/Clinical-Shoulder-Research-and-Surgical-Skills-Research/working-with-patients/technology-enhanced-patient-information-tepi>

and were also made into a module on the very popular Health Talk website.

<http://www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/bones-joints/bone-surgery/what-partial-knee-replacement>

**The impact of involving patients and public in the study/ your work overall**

This study was completely patient focused and patient engaging to provide patients with the information they want and in the format they want. The information is being made widely available and shared on the internet with patients with positive feedback.

**The importance of involving patients and the public in research**

In relation to this particular study, the tradition of experts developing patient information for patients without actually involving patients seems strange but this is what has traditionally happened in many disciplines. The strength of this study was its patient focus and engagement.

**The biggest challenges in PPI and what might help to overcome them**

1. Developing and maintaining a good resource of engaged patients in various specialities.