

few weeks and hosted them in purpose-built web pages. We generated PAG-approved lay summaries to share our original research findings with patients.

Conclusion: Patients quickly adapted to engage in digital PPI activities during pandemic lockdown conditions. Collaborative working via teleconferencing and shared screens is a productive, inclusive and convenient way to rapidly develop patient information. Clinicians should invite critique and can expect patient engagement to enhance the content and acceptability of patient resources.

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Co-producing surgical patient information during COVID-19

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Introduction: Patients preparing for surgery are understandably fearful due to the threat of COVID-19. With rapid release of surgical research, we wanted to ensure patients can access the right evidence to make informed decisions. We describe an innovative, digital, patient and public involvement (PPI) strategy designed to engage surgical patients with COVID-19 research as it is released, by producing accessible resources.

Methods: We established a Patient Advisory Group (PAG) to co-produce patient information about having surgery during the pandemic, and the risks of perioperative SARS-CoV-2, using information from the CovidSurg international surgical cohort studies.

Results: The PAG were keen for patients to understand the high risks of mortality and serious breathing complications associated with perioperative SARS-CoV-2. They wanted detailed information about what patients can do to stay safe and about the measures hospitals are taking to keep them safe. What patients wanted to know was not always what surgeons presupposed.

We co-produced patient resources with separate versions for dyslexia and learning disabled patients. We published 18 translations within a