

Informed consent based on 3D data visualization vs. patient information based on legal regulations

Master Thesis

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by

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Declaration

I declare that I have developed and written the enclosed Master Thesis completely by myself, and have not used sources or means without declaration in the text. Any thoughts from others or literal quotations are clearly marked. This work was not used in the same or in a similar version to achieve an academic grading or is being published elsewhere.

St. Pölten, May 2019

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Place, Date



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Signature

Preface

I started my first study in 2004. After I became father, I decided to study again. One of the reasons for this decision was to show my children that learning and studying is a rolling process. It is important to learn for a lifetime. Therefore, I want to thank my children Jan and Mia, and especially my wife Sabine. The last two years were really hard for our family.

I also want to thank my chief radiographer Mr. Christian Schrenk. He made it possible to work fulltime and study additionally at the university of applied science.

Two people, who accompanied me through the whole master thesis process were FH-Prof. Romana Bichler, PT MAS and FH-Doz. Dipl.-Sporting. Dr. Mario Heller – thank you. I would also like to pay tribute to the head of the degree program FH-Prof. Jakob Doppler, MSc for his tireless dedication to “Digital Healthcare”.

For my informed consent discussion, I searched for probands. Every person I asked was willing to participate in my study – and came in time to the explanatory meeting – Thanks.

Every information talk, and there were more than 40 discussions, was held by Dr. Christoph Karner. He is an orthopedics and trauma surgeon at the University Hospital of St. Pölten and he donated more than two days to my study. For this, and for the perfect informed consent talk, I want to thank him.

Last but not least, the head of the department Trauma Surgery at the University Hospital in St. Pölten Prim. Assoc. Prof. Priv. Doz. Dr. Patrick Platzer, Ph.D., MBA had an open ear for my troubles all the time. Thanks for your support.

Abstract

Subject

After accidents, patients are in an exceptional situation. Severe injuries often require surgery. Prior to medical treatment / examinations, the patient has to give his/her consent. Medical image data from CT or MRI are reconstructed to 2-dimensional images in daily routine. With open source programs, these 2D-image data can be edited into 3D-models. Both, surgeon and patient, can use these 3D models before surgery.

Research Question

Purpose of this master thesis is to evaluate the implementation of 3D-medical data visualization in the patient information.

Method

The design of the pilot study was a simulated, monocentral, randomized case/control study. Simulated means in this context that the participants were not really injured. The informed consent discussion was supported in the case group by following tools: 3D computer model, hand-drawn sketches, x-ray and CT images and informed consent form. The control group went through the same procedure without 3D computer model.

Results

The global result after consideration of comprehensibility, completeness, recall and satisfaction is quite similar between case and control group. However, there is a connection between the level of education and the approval of the 3D model. Probands with a lower level of education perceived the 3D model as better understandable. All probands understood the patient information with the 3D model better. Especially women above the age of 61 years saw a benefit in the introduction of 3D models in patient information.

Conclusion

Aim of this pilot study is to generate a hypothesis. After evaluating all the data, it could be argued that lower educated patients would benefit more from using 3D models in the context of patient information than patients with a higher education.

Keywords

3D visualization, informed consent, patient information, 3D model, spine bone

Kurzfassung

Gegenstand

Nach Unfällen befinden sich die PatientInnen in einer Ausnahmesituation. Schwere Verletzungen erfordern häufig eine Operation. Vor medizinischen Behandlungen / Untersuchungen muss die Zustimmung der PatientInnen eingeholt werden. Medizinische Bilddaten wie CT oder MRI liefern 2-dimensionale Bilder. Mit Open-Source-Programmen können diese 2D-Bilddaten in 3D-Modelle bearbeitet werden. Sowohl die ChirurgInnen als auch die PatientInnen können diese 3D-Modelle vor der Operation verwenden.

Fragestellung

Ziel dieser Masterarbeit ist es, die Implementierung der medizinischen 3D-Datenvisualisierung im Rahmen der PatientInnenaufklärung zu evaluieren.

Methode

Das Design der Pilotstudie war eine simulierte, monozentrische, randomisierte Fall- / Kontrollstudie. Simuliert bedeutet in diesem Zusammenhang, dass die Teilnehmer nicht wirklich verletzt waren. Die PatientInnenaufklärung wurde in der Fallgruppe durch folgende Tools unterstützt: 3D-Computermodell, handgefertigte Skizzen, Röntgen- und CT-Bilder und Aufklärungsbögen. Die Kontrollgruppe erhält das gleiche Verfahren nur ohne das 3D-Computermodell.

Ergebnisse

Das Gesamtergebnis nach Berücksichtigung von Verständlichkeit, Vollständigkeit, Merkfähigkeit und Zufriedenheit ist zwischen Fall und Kontrollgruppe ziemlich ähnlich. Es besteht jedoch ein Zusammenhang zwischen dem Bildungsstand und der Verständlichkeit des 3D-Modells. ProbandInnen mit niedrigerem Bildungsniveau empfanden das 3D-Modell als verständlicher. Weibliche Probandinnen über 61 Jahre sahen einen Vorteil bei der Einführung von 3D-Modellen in die PatientInneninformation.

Fazit

Ziel dieser Pilotstudie ist es, eine Hypothese zu erstellen. Nach Auswertung sämtlicher Daten könnte argumentiert werden, dass PatientInnen mit geringerer Ausbildung stärker von der Verwendung von 3D-Modellen im Zusammenhang mit PatientInneninformationen profitieren würden als Patienten mit höherer Bildung.

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1 Introduction

Almost everyone will get injured or become ill in the course of their lifetime and will need an extensive medical care, like a surgery. For the proof of the free will, patient information is completed with a declaration of consent. However, approval can only be given when the patient is aware of the scope of his decision. If the patient does not understand the explanations, the use of tools, like 3D computer models, should bring improvement.

1.1 Problem

After injuries or an severe illness, patients are often in a state of emergency. In this exceptional situation, where emotional stress and physical pain play a major role, it is difficult for patients to understand important information [1]. Concentration and perceptivity are often limited.

The legal requirements in Austria for informed consent are an exclusive conversation between the informer physician and the patient. Sometimes, the conversation is enhanced with pictures and an information sheet, called informed consent form. At the end of the patient information conversation, the patient signs the declaration of consent, which is printed on the informed consent form – that means that the patient is aware of the risks and the possibilities and agrees to undergo the medical procedure. A study from Hermann indicates, that only a verbal communication is not state of the art in the context of the informed consent discussion [2]. For documentation, the information sheets are used very often, but not required by law. In a study, Özhan et al. found that 54.8% did not read the informed consent form. As reasons, the patients indicated the lack of time and the comprehensibility of the information sheet. One suggested solution in the study was to incorporate visual elements for aid in patient information [3].

Various studies have shown that the patient's recall is very limited, especially the information about risks and complications of surgical interventions [4], [5]. To agree to a treatment process, understanding and compliance is absolutely necessary. Compliance is only possible when the patient understands the

treatment. A further problem is the shortage of physicians. An incomplete declaration of consent increases with the lack of physicians [6].

Synder-Ramos et al. notes that patient care is not tailored to the individual needs of the patient [7]. This leads to the conclusion, that patient education as part of the care is also not up to date.

A further problem is, that the informer physician has only mono-planar (x-ray) or two-dimensional cross section images (CT, MRI). On an x-ray image the pathology can only be viewed from one perspective.

1.2 Reason

As there are no publications on this topic to date and no one has discussed patient information in combination with 3D visualization of medical image data yet, this topic is a novelty.

Modern imaging modalities like computer tomography or magnet resonance imaging are widespread in Austrian hospitals. With these generated images, individual 3D computer models can be created quickly and easily. The informer physician can use these 3D computer models as part of the patient information to support the comprehensibility of the injury, risks and complications. With 3D models the understanding of the illness and the patient motivation in treatment increases [8] and the doctor-patient communication improve too [9]. Lin et al. found out that patient education using audio-visual methods is promising, even in an emergency situation [1]. A 3D model would fulfil the requirements on visibility. As a picture already says more than 1000 words, a three-dimensional model (based on many images) is an important supplement in the context of patient information. By using the 3D model, medical terms which are often a problem for non-professionals, can be understood more easily.

Physicians can also use the individual computer 3D model to prepare him/herself for the surgical procedure. The individual details of fractures can be understood more easily. Based on the 3D model, an individual treatment plan can be created [9]. The 3D computer model gives the surgeon the possibility to have a look at the injured region from every perspective [10].

1.3 Aims

Aim of this thesis is to develop an integrated 3D visualization tool in patient information. As part of the pilot study, the potential for improvement is examined by questioning probands. Therefore, as a first step, a 3D model of medical image data has to be generated.

The present study compares the patient information based on legal regulations with the innovative way of using 3D data visualization to obtain informed content. The evaluation compares the comprehensibility, the completeness, the recall and the satisfaction. Furthermore, the necessity of a printed individual 3D model and the necessity of a portable 3D model was queried.

1.4 Methods

In an literature search on PubMed¹ and google scholar², no studies concerning “informed consent” and “3D visualization” of medical data could be found.

The pilot study was designed as a randomized case/control study. Both groups consisted of 24 probands. The group allocation was randomized at the beginning of the doctor-patient communication. The case group received a patient information talk. The injury, the complications, the risks and the access path were explained by a 3D model. The questions of the probands during the patient information conversation were explained by the anatomical 3D model on the computer monitor. The participants also got an information sheet 10 minutes before the informed consent discussion. The images of the x-ray and CT-examination were also shown - if necessity. For a better understanding, hand-drawn sketches were made.

The control group received a patient information based on legal regulations supported by informed consent sheet (also 10 min before the doctor-patient communication), medical images (x-ray and CT) and hand-drawn sketches. Thus, the only difference between the case and control group was the use of the 3D computer model in the case group. For a better understanding, it's important to state that the study members were not injured. The situation was only simulated. The task of the probands started with the patient information conversation and ended with the evaluation of the patient information.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>

² <https://scholar.google.at/>

1.5 Research Question

Purpose of this master thesis is to evaluate the implementation of 3D medical data visualization in the patient information.

By evaluating the informed consent process for the case and control group, a trend is trying to be derived. The author tries to analyze the case and control group according to gender, age categories and education.

1.6 Structure of the thesis

The following chapter explains the theoretical background about medical image acquisition and image postprocessing. It also includes the basics about injured spine bone and the rudiments about informed consent.

The topic in chapter 3 is the development of an individual 3D model based on medical image data. This topic is not a tutorial for making a 3D model, because this would go beyond the scope of this master thesis.

Chapter 4 contains the methodology, the development of the questionnaire and the survey. Main part of the master thesis is the presentation of the results in chapter 5 and the attended discussion in chapter 6. The limitations and the conclusion close the main part of the master thesis.

2 Theoretical background

The following subchapters were written to get an overview about medical images and postprocessing to create 3D computer models in the context of an injured spine bone and the obligate informed consent.

2.1 Medical imaging acquisition

Due to the medical issue every type of medical image acquisition has its authorization. But every method has its advantages and disadvantages. The use of tomographic techniques, like computer tomography (CT) and magnet resonance imaging (MRI), provides more informative radiological results with less invasive diagnostics [11]. Furthermore MRI has excellent tissue characterization without ionizing radiation [12]. CT scanners are nationwide common. For the creation of 3D models, both, CT and MRI images are excellent sources [13].

2.1.1 Medical imaging - computer tomography (CT)

CT is a scanning technique based on x-rays to generate images from a patient. The x-ray tube rotates around the object in the gantry. From these digital attenuation values complex reconstructing algorithms are calculating tomographic images. The different image impression (black, white and different grey values) arises due to the different absorption of the x-ray beam. Soft tissue absorbs less radiation than bones.

Until now, 5 generations of CT scanners were developed. The first generation was fitted with an x-ray pencil beam. The detector was opposite of the x-ray tube and moved parallel with it. The second generation was faster and used a fan x-ray. Currently, the most frequent used scanners are the scanner of the third generation. The x-ray tube is opposite of the detector and records every change of density of the x-rays along the fan. The tube and the detector rotate around the patient, who is placed in the opening of the gantry. In the fourth generation, only the tube rotates. The entire gantry is equipped with a static detector. The fifth generation uses static detectors and tubes. To penetrate the desired cross section the direction of the x-rays is changed by an electron source (electron gun) [14, pp. 14–18] (Figure 1). With the introduction of spiral scanners in the late 1980's, slice-oriented imaging could be improved to organ imaging [15].

2 Theoretical background

The two-dimensional image gets constructed by a software on a workstation based on the different levels of density. In virtue of the different densities, thickness and atomic number, a difference in contrast between the tissues is noticeable [16].

With the introduction of multislice spiral scanners, almost isotropic voxels (extension in x, y, and z direction approximately ident) can be generated for the first time. According to a pixel (the smallest piece – square – of a digital due to the resolution), a voxel is the smallest piece – cube – of a scanned volume containing colour and opacity values. Since CT images represent the most common basis for the creation of medical 3D models, the isotropic voxels should be reconstituted smaller than 1.25 mm during image processing [16]. Another reason for using CT data as a basis for 3D model creation is the fact, that the tissue densities correlate directly with the pixel intensities [17].

In this study for image acquisition, a CT scanner of the third generation in spiral mode was chosen.

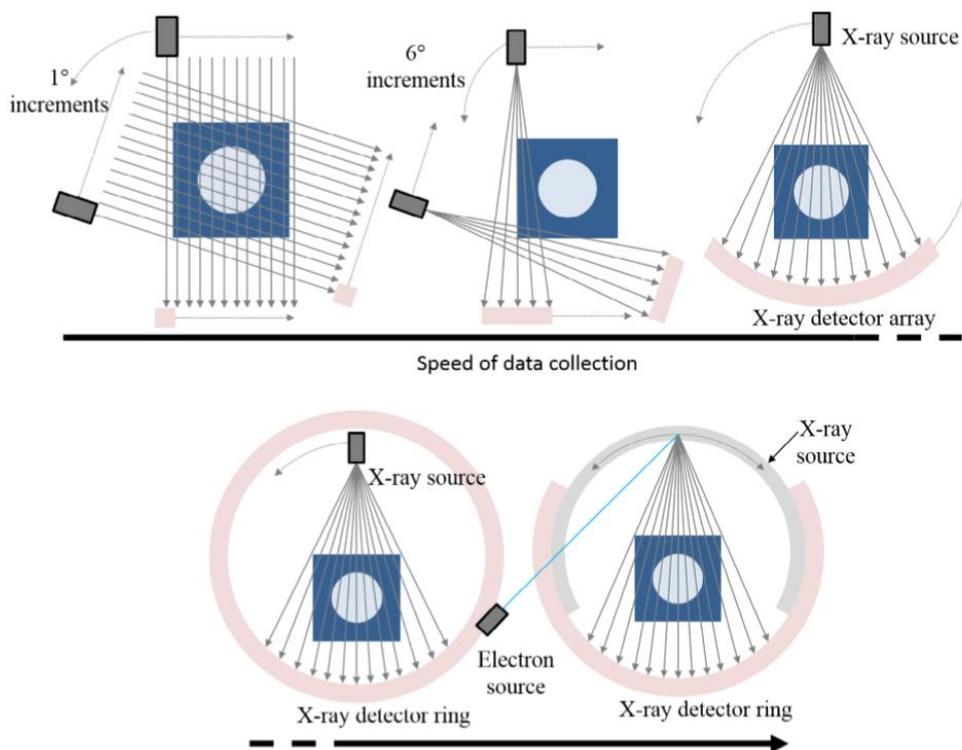


Figure 1: Schematic diagrams of the 5 generations of CT scanner [15]

In imaging procedures, the stratification of the examination is named along the body levels. The CT examination is performed with axial slices (perpendicular to the body axes).

In computed tomography, the window (bone or soft tissue) determines which section of the measured density values in the image is assigned to grey values from black to white. The CT image consists of several thousand grey values. The human eyes can only differentiate 20-60 of these grey values. Therefore, the optimal setting of the grey scale window is important for image optimization and postprocessing, like creating a 3D model [18, pp. 52–55].

2.1.2 Standard DICOM

The Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine called DICOM Standard was published by the American College of Radiology and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association in 1983 [19, p. 346]. CT, x-rays as well as MRI images are stored in the DICOM standard. This data form is the basis for the creation of a 3D visualization of medical image data. The DICOM standard is more than a data format.

Summarized findings of Bidgood et al. [20] to explain DICOM:

- *DICOM defines the form and the flow of the electronic messages that convey images and related information between computers.*
- *DICOM is a message standard – a specification for interchange of information between computer systems*
- *DICOM specifies a non-proprietary data interchange protocol, digital image format and file structure for biomedical images and image-related information.*
- *DICOM interfaces are available of any combination of the following categories of digital devices: image acquisition equipment, image archives, image processing devices and image display workstations and hard-copy output devices.*

2.2 Image postprocessing - 3D data visualization

Image postprocessing makes a significant contribution to the creation of radiological findings. Part of postprocessing can be the creation of volumetric datasets. One reason for the development of this processing tool, is the difficulty of understanding complex pathological and anatomical structures in a two-dimensional view [21]. As a possible solution, the first 3D models were printed in the early nineteen nineties [15].

For the creation of a 3D model a 3D space has to be defined. The 3D space is made up of 3 axes, which are perpendicular to each other. These three axes are defining height, depth and width of the space. The x-axis runs from right to left horizontally, the y-axis from back to front and the z-axis comes from the bottom to the top [22, pp. 36–39].

In the literature study, some comparisons of 2D versus 3D image data were made. Behrendt et al. found out that with 3D navigation for iliosacral screw fixation a higher accuracy can be achieved [23]. Buia et al. claim that 3D imaging is an upcoming technology and increases safety and efficiency in comparison to 2D imaging [24].

2.2.1 Image segmentation with 3DSlicer

There are various programs for image segmentation. In this study, a free and open source solution called 3DSlicer³ (Brigham and Woman's Hospital, Inc., Boston, MA) was used. This program provides highest compatibility and surface resolution for anatomic 3D modelling. 3DSlicer is only for medical research and not FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) approved. Some workstations in a radiology department provide also an integrated image segmentation program in the postprocessing software.

Nevertheless, all programs have the same goal, namely to extract the “region of interest – ROI” from the medical images for printing or visualization. 3DSlicer has the possibility of an automatically threshold segmentation tool. Besides, every slice of the examination will be superimposed, which causes the two-dimensional image (pixels) to change to three-dimensional (voxels).

After capturing the region of interest, the voxel data will be meshed by extracting iso-surfaces and transform them into triangles [25]. The created model can be exported as a STL or as an OBJ dataset. These formats are standard file formats to define the surfaces. The STL (Standard Tessellation Language) format defines surfaces as a collection of triangles. OBJ is an open file format for saving three-dimensional geometrical forms. Data storage based on the surface of a 3D model reduces the data size by a multiple.

³ <https://www.slicer.org/>

2.2.2 Mesh refinement with Autodesk® Meshmixer™

Meshmixer™⁴ (Autodesk, San Rafael, CA) is a free mesh processing tool. It is easily used and provides mesh editing, hole filing, smoothing and self-intersection and inspection. Programs which provides mesh refinement are called CAD-programs (computer-aided design).

The .stl file is defined by the surface, which consists of triangles. One function of Meshmixer™ is the possibility to reduce the number of triangles.

The figure below (Figure 2) shows the change based on the reduction of the triangles. The number of triangles becomes less, the higher the compression is, respectively the less memory space the file occupies.

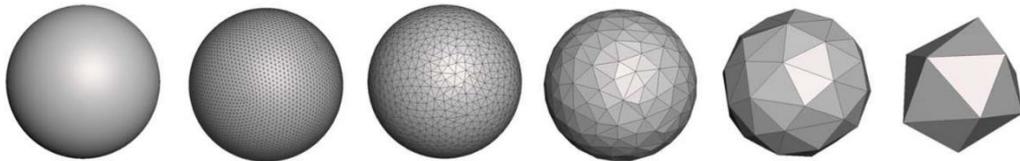


Figure 2: change of a bullet by reducing the triangles [12]

2.2.3 Distribution with Amazon sumerian

Amazon sumerian⁵ (Amazon Web Service Inc., Seattle, WA) is a developer tool for creating virtual or augmented reality or 3D applications. It's quite easy to upload an .obj-file and publish the scene in the world wide web. Amazon sumerian offers different possibilities to create a 3D scene. Spotlights and camera settings can be changed as well as backgrounds. There is also the possibility to use avatars. After publishing the scene, the creator gets an URL code. With this web address the user can call up the 3D scene. As this data is stored on an Amazon's server, it should contain only anonymised data.

2.3 Traumatic fundamentals of the spine bone

In the age group of under 40-year olds, accidents are a frequent cause of death. Medical care of seriously injured people presents a financial burden to the society [26]. Therefore, the best-possible reconstruction is the goal.

⁴ <http://www.meshmixer.com/>

⁵ <https://aws.amazon.com/de/sumerian/>

2.3.1 Frequency of traumatic spine injure

In Western Europe, the annual incidence of spinal cord trauma is 16 incidents per one million [27]. Only 3-6 % of skeletal injuries involve the spine, with 20- to 50-years old male representing the peak [28].

The main causes of injury of the thoracic and lumbar spine are falls from high altitudes, traffic and work accidents and high-friction leisure activities. With elderly people, spinal injuries can be triggered by trivial events. Most common (65 – 70 %) are vertebrae injuries between Th11 – L2 [29].

2.3.2 Anatomy of the spine bone

Due to its architecture, the spine column not only protects the spinal cord, it also has a supportive function and the possibility for movement [28]. The thoracic spine consists of 12 (Th1-12) vertebrae. From a lateral view it has a kyphotic form. In contrast to the thoracic spine, the lumbar spine has a lordosis and consists basically of 5 vertebral bodies (L1-5). The transition from kyphosis to lordosis increases the susceptibility to injuries of this region. The spinal canal is particularly narrow [29].

Anatomically, the spine can be divided in front, middle and rear pillar. The front and middle pillar are responsible for the supportive function (Figure 3). Between the vertebral bodies are discs with a shock-absorbing function. The anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments delimit the vertebral bodies and the intervertebral discs to the rear and front. Behind the posterior longitudinal ligament, surrounded by the vertebral arches, is the spinal canal containing the spinal cord and nerves.

Traumatic injuries of the spine primarily issue from fractures of the vertebral bodies and arches as well as the spinous and transverse processes [30].

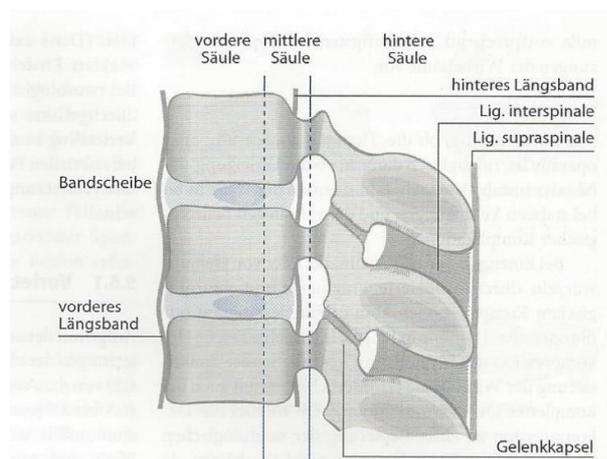


Figure 3: three pillar model [31, p. 173]

Due to the affecting force, spinal fractures can be divided into compression, distraction and rotational injuries. If the force is axial to the spine, like a fall on the buttocks, a compression injury (type A shown at Figure 4 point a) is common. By additional or extreme flexion, the specialist speaks from a distraction injury (type B shown at Figure 4, point b or c). A simultaneous twist can emerge from a rotation injury (type C shown at Figure 4 point d) [28].

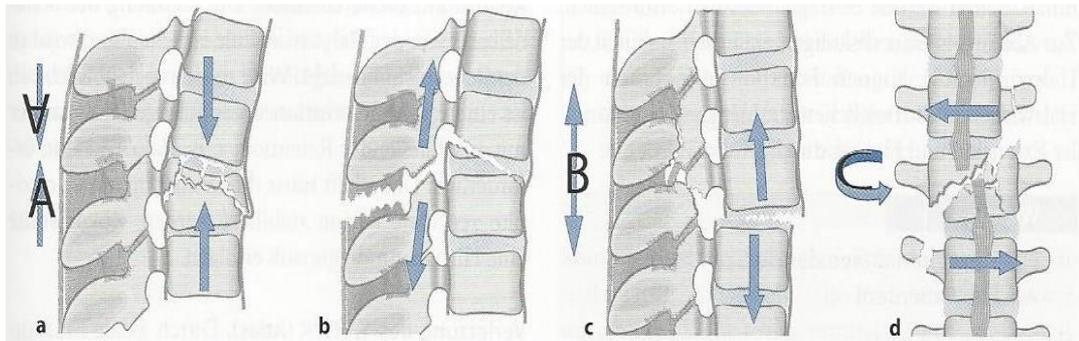


Figure 4: a) compression injury, b + c) distraction injury, d) rotation injury [31, p. 173]

2.3.3 Diagnosis of a spine bone fracture

By default, if a spinal injury is suspected, a conventional x-ray is taken after a detailed examination of the backbone by a physician. Nevertheless, half of the fractures cannot be detected [30]. In the NEXUS (“National Emergency X-Radiography Utilization Study), 4 points were validated for the use of additional imaging like CT.

Further diagnostics should be performed if one or more of the following topics apply [30]:

- alternating state of mind
- intoxication
- painfulness of the posterior midline
- distraction injury

In order to exclude an injury of the spinal cord an additional MRI examination should be carried out.

2.3.4 Intervention of a spine bone fracture

The fundamental goal of every treatment of an injured spine is the reconstruction of the static, dynamic and protective function for a lifetime. The priority measures are the decompression of neurogenic structures and the repositioning of the injured

2 Theoretical background

segment or segments [28]. Nearly 66 % of spine bone fractures can be treated conservatively, that means without a surgery [30].

For an intervention decision, axial CT slices are necessary. An absolute indication for surgery within 6 hours is a neurological deficit. Restriction of the spinal canal represent only relative indications. The primary standard procedure in a surgery is the dorsal instrumentation [29]. In this operation, screws are inserted into the uninjured vertebrae above and below. After raising the injured vertebra to its originally height, the final result will be fixed with metal rods (Figure 5). A high risk is to injure the spinal cord by inserting of the screws. If the stability cannot be guaranteed after the dorsal instrumentation, a further operation must be considered.

If the decision falls for an operative solution, the evaluation of 17 years German TraumaRegister DGU⁶ shows us, that an early operation within 72 h after injury is associated with shorter hospital stays, if indicated [32].

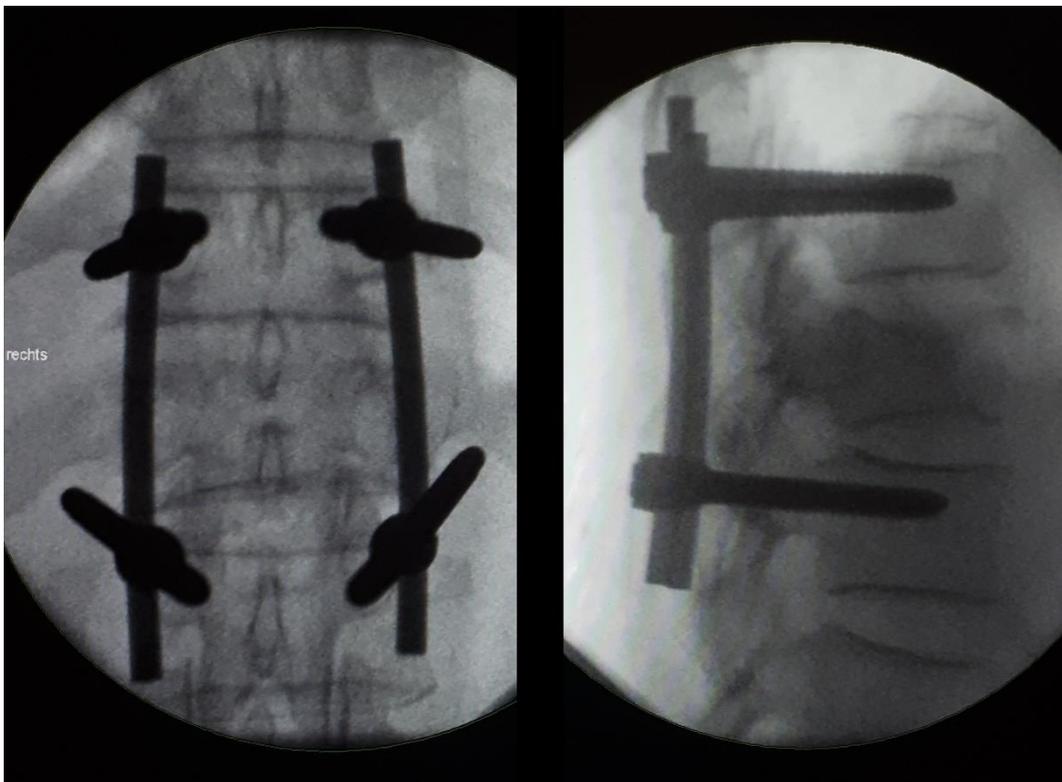


Figure 5: intraoperative x-ray image of a dorsal instrumentation by a Th12 body fracture

⁶ <http://www.traumaregister-dgu.de>

2.4 Informed consent

The process of agreement of a mentally fit patient to a treatment by understanding potential complications and risks, alternative treatments and benefits is called informed consent [33]. An informed consent is an important legal and ethical requirement, which protects the autonomy of patients [34]. Correct patient information is a fine line between sharing necessary information and generating fear. The appropriate patient information should show the patient's benefits, risks and alternatives [35].

The trend in medicine is moving towards self-empowerment. Even in the case of injuries or serious diseases, the patient determines himself, and is not just the subject of doctors care [36].

2.4.1 Legal regulations

The legal regulations in Austria is based on the treatment agreement. This is the fundament of the doctor's duty to inform the patient about category and severity of the disease, about potential risks and consequences of a treatment or non-treatment. The scope of the provided information is, according to supreme judicature, a question of law, to ensure individual clarification.

In an agreement between the state of Austria and the nine federal provinces ("Patientencharta") is in article 16 Abs. 2 the following constituted:

"Die Art der Aufklärung hat der Persönlichkeitsstruktur und dem Bildungsstand der Patienten und Patientinnen angepasst und den Umständen des Falles entsprechend zu erfolgen." ⁷[37]

According to § 49, 51 ÄrzteG⁸ [38] it is directly derivable, that the doctor is required to consult, inform and educate the patient and record this.

Also § 5a Abs. 1 Z 2 KAKuG⁹ [39] grant the patients right of information and education about options for treatment, including risks.

⁷ Patientencharta, Vereinbarung gem. Art. 15a B-VG

⁸ Bundesgesetz über die Ausübung des ärztlichen Berufes

⁹ Bundesgesetz über Krankenanstalten und Kuranstalten

Furthermore, the patient information is regulated in § 5 ÄsthOpG¹⁰ [40], § 18 ZÄG¹¹ [41] and also in § 110 StGB¹² [42], sanctioning “unauthorized curative treatment”. The conclusion is that the doctor has to inform the patient accordingly prior to a medical treatment [43, p. 85 ff], [36], [44, p. 50].

The supreme court¹³ differentiates three parts of patient information

- Diagnosis information
- Therapy information
- Risk information

Diagnosis information is the information about the illness or injury and necessary steps for finding a diagnosis. The information regarding therapy explains all therapeutic activities and alternatives including behavioural measures. The condition without treatment has to be explained, as well. The risk information includes information about potential dangers and consequences of medical measures [34].

The scope of information must be adapted to the urgency of the treatment. The less urgent and the higher the risk, the more intensive the information must be [34]. The informed consent discussion is a personal conversation between the patient and physician. This individual personal conversation is the only adequate form. The patient information sheets are for support only and can be used for documentation [43, p. 100], [45, p. I/109].

2.4.2 Comprehensibility of informed consent discussion

Although the legislator requires the informed consent discussion between the doctor and the patient as a solid information tool, studies have shown that only about 20% of the information can be recorded [46]. Therefore, it is important to improve the comprehensibility of patient information.

This can be achieved by the increased use of visual tools, such as a video. Hermann claims in a study, that the quality of preoperative information was significantly better by using a video as part of the informed consent communication

¹⁰ Bundesgesetz über die Durchführung von ästhetischen Behandlungen und Operationen

¹¹ Bundesgesetz über die Ausübung des zahnärztlichen Berufes und des Dentistenberufes

¹² Bundesgesetz vom 23.1.1974 über die mit gerichtlicher Strafe bedrohten Handlungen

¹³ OGH 29.1.2001, 3 Ob 87/00

2 Theoretical background

in comparison to the control group without videos. He also reports a high acceptance [2]. Patient compliance has been improved [9] which reduces the tendency to conflict [2].

Another option for improving comprehensibility in the context of patient information could be the use of individual 3D models. In a study, Zheng et al. found out, that the quality of the preoperative communication was improved by explaining the injury or illness based on a 3D model. Finally, an active cooperation of the patients in treatment and rehabilitation can be achieved, with a clear and understandable patient information [9].

The use of any kind of digital or analogue tool, supporting the informed consent discussion, like informed consent form, is welcome, but cannot replace the face-to-face conversation with the physician [47]. The big advantage of a personal conversation is the possibility to raise questions, place inquiries and scrutinize all uncertainties.

3 Prototype of the 3D model

In order to be able to perform patient information with an individual 3D model, an anonymous image data set was provided for the creation of a prototype. The original CT data were stored in a DICOM standard in the PACS-system (picture archiving and communication system). After anonymization, the image data, were stored on a compact disc for a further process by using the programs 3DSlicer (Brigham and Woman's Hospital, Inc., Boston MA) and Meshmixer™ (Autodesk, San Rafael, CA). For publishing the platform "Amazon sumerian" (Amazon Web Service Inc., Seattle, WA) was used.

3.1 Medical data collection

For the examination a third generation 64-slice spiral CT (Model Ingenuity, Philips, Amsterdam, Netherlands) was used.

The following metadata (Table 1) were stored in the DICOM protocol:

modality	CT
manufacturer	Philips
manufacturer model name	Ingenuity CT
scan options	helix
body part examined	spine
slice thickness	2 mm
kVp	100
space between slices	2
spiral pitch factor	0,971
number of slices	91
collimation	64 x 0,625 mm
matrix	1288x510

Table 1 : Excerpt from the DICOM protocol of the examination

3 Prototype of the 3D model

To reconstruct the 3D computer model, the supporting physician provided an anonymized compact disk. The content on the disk was the DICOM data from the x-ray and the computer tomography, copied from the PACS. The CT examination was reconstructed in sagittal and axial slices with filtering and windowing for bones and soft tissue.

On the disk was by default a DICOM viewer, which allowed a preselection of the right series. The series 602 was selected which had the advantage of a soft tissue window and soft tissue kernel.

3.2 Creation of the 3D computer model

The series 602 was imported into the free and open source program 3DSlicer (version 4.8.1 r26813). The import worked, although big data, fine.

All programs were used on a notebook from Acer (Aspire E15 E5-575G-505T). The standard configuration consists of an Intel® Core™i5-7200 U with 8 GB DDR4 RAM memory and a NVIDIA®GeForce®940MX with 2GB VRAM graphic card.

After importing the DICOM data, the 3D visualization started with the button “Volume Rendering” (Figure 6). Every slice of the series was placed side by side and the “region of interest” was filtered out.

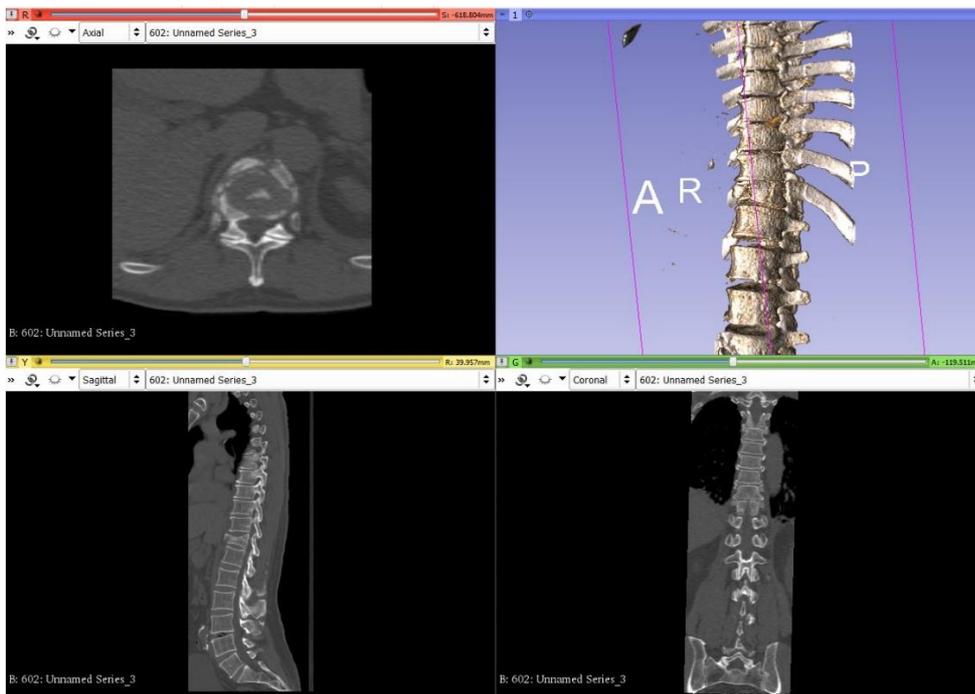


Figure 6: Screenshot 3DSlicer – Volume Rendering

3 Prototype of the 3D model

For 3D printing and highly performing visualization a 3D model based on polygons was generated. The greyscale model maker (Figure 7) offers the opportunity to define a threshold, a smoothing value and a decimate factor. After many tries with different parameters the following settings have been proven.

Threshold - to get e good model and reduce the noise: **160**

Smoothing – high smoothing less complexity of the model: **50**

Decimate – increase decimate also reduce complexity: **0,05**

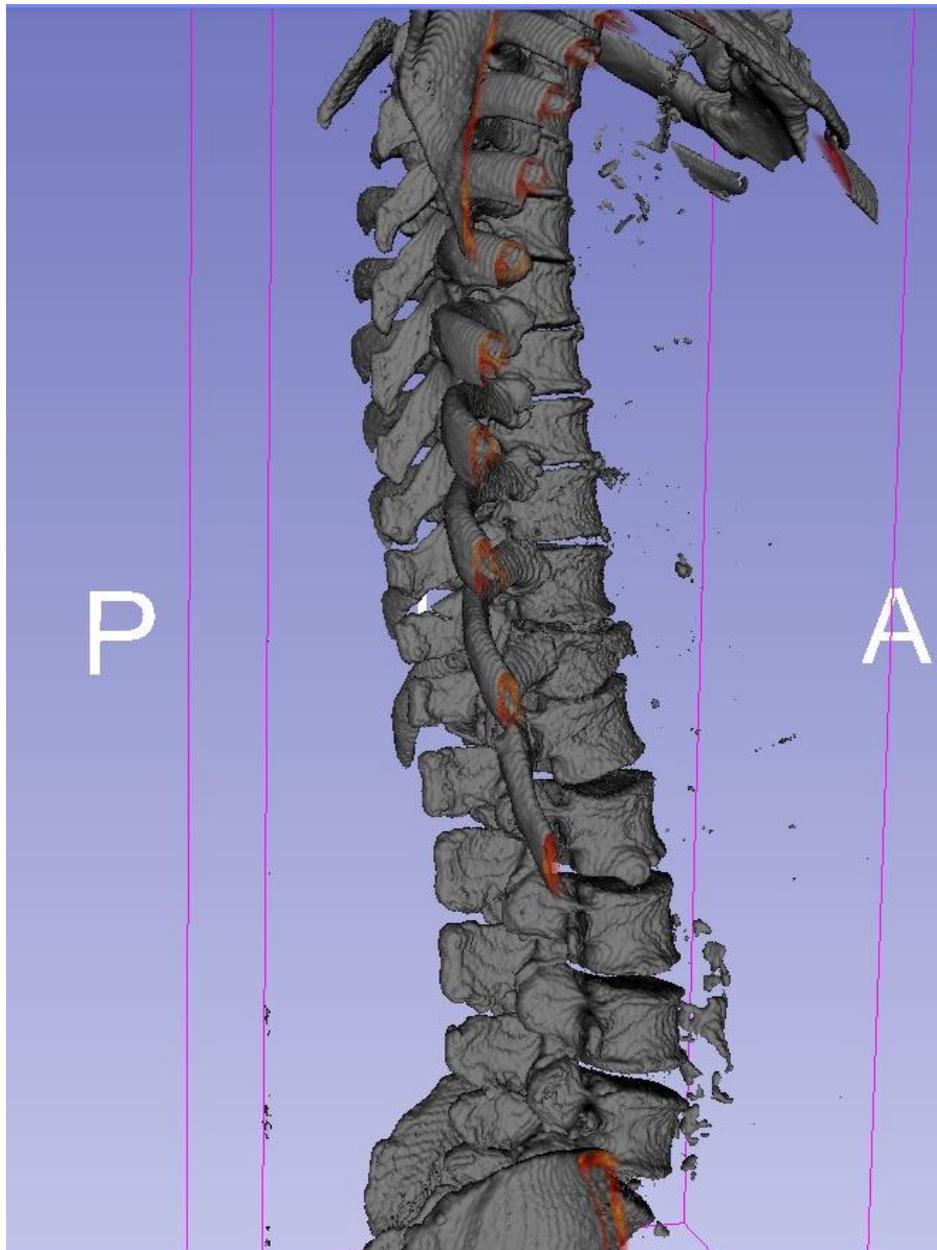


Figure 7: Screenshot 3DSlicer – greyscale model maker

3 Prototype of the 3D model

Finally, the new 3D computer model was exported as a .stl or .obj for further processing. The .stl file was much smaller compared to the .obj file. As the mesh program can easily import both formats, it was primarily worked on with the data in the .stl format.

3.3 Editing the .stl-file

One of the easiest ways of editing the 3D model is to import the dataset into Autodesk® Meshmixer™ (version 3.5.474). Meshmixer™ is a useful tool for editing, cleaning, healing, inspection and converting the file.

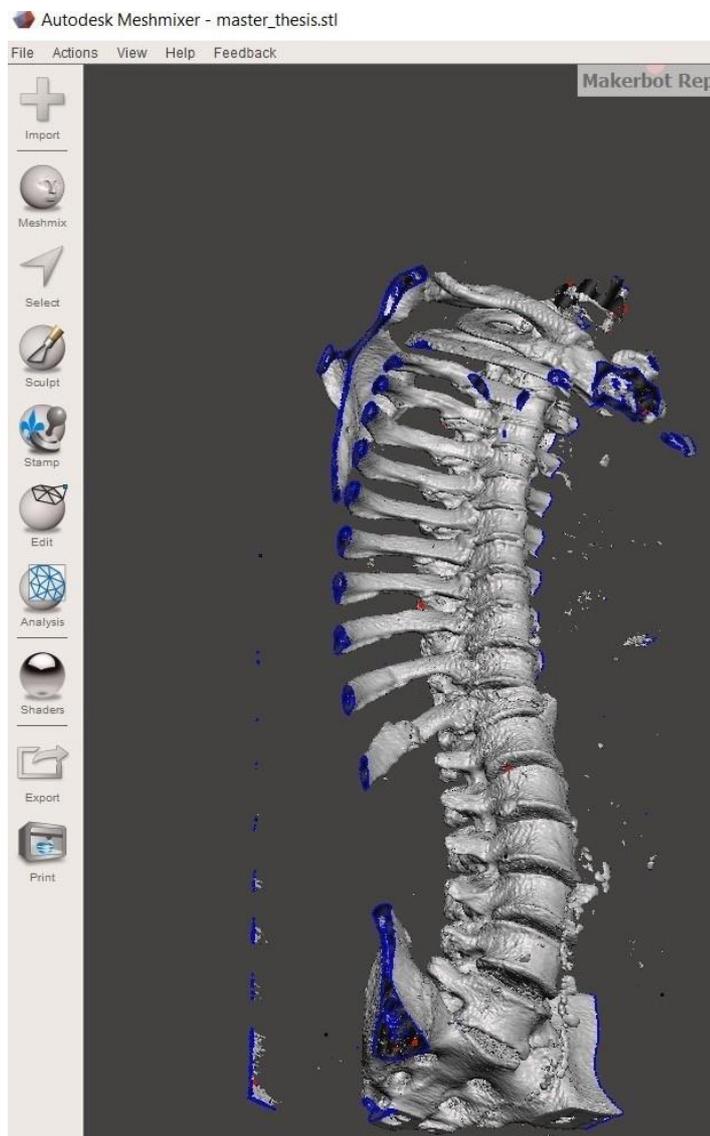


Figure 8: Screenshot Meshmixer™ – import .stl

3 Prototype of the 3D model

The picture in Figure 8 has a high image noise. Some bones, like the scapula were to remove. Clarify the 3D model was quite easy, but time consuming. The picture below (Figure 9) shows the process.

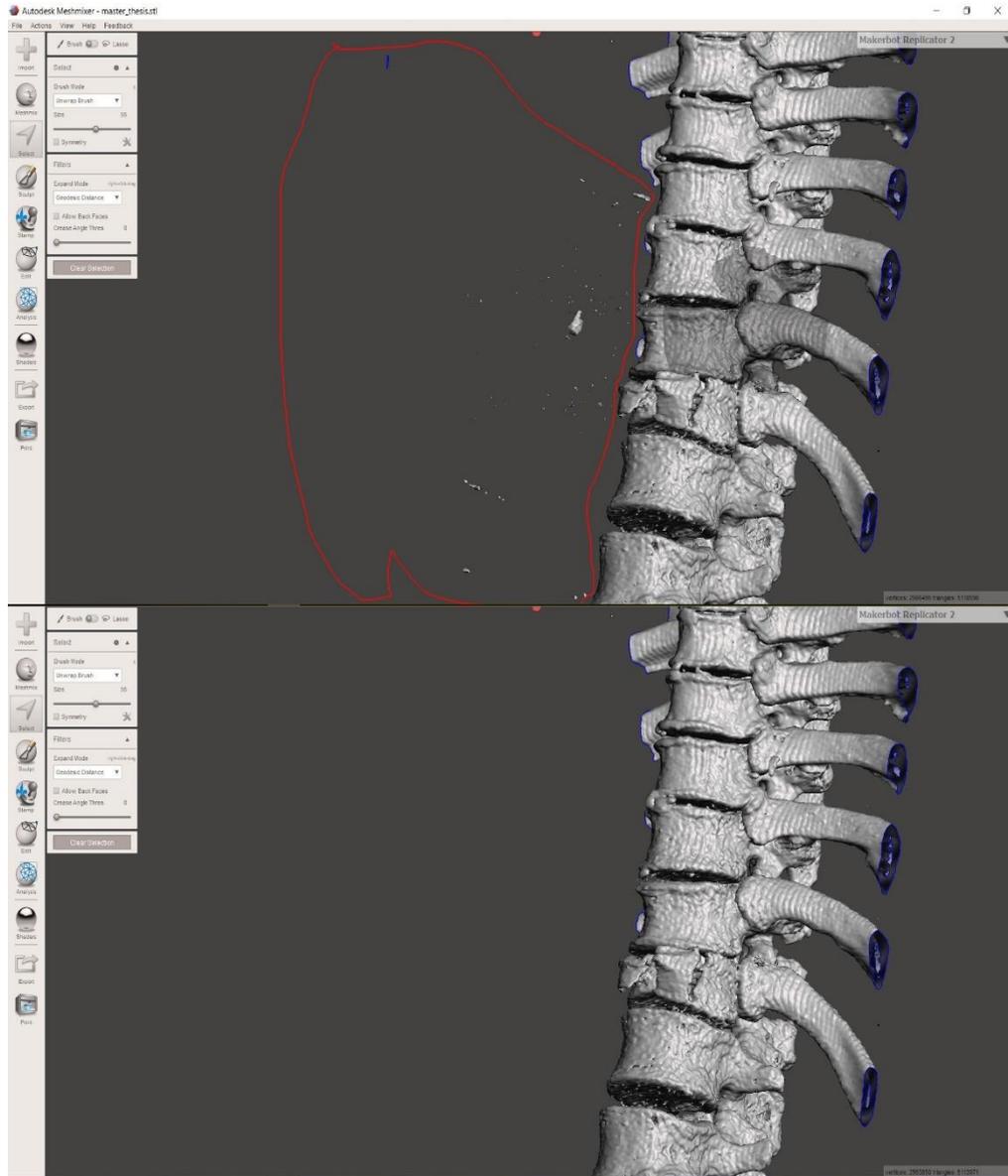


Figure 9: Screenshot Meshmixer™ – select and remove the noise

Another handy tool of Meshmixer™ was the inspection and healing function. With a few clicks, the program checked the surface of the model and provided an autorepair function (Figure 10).

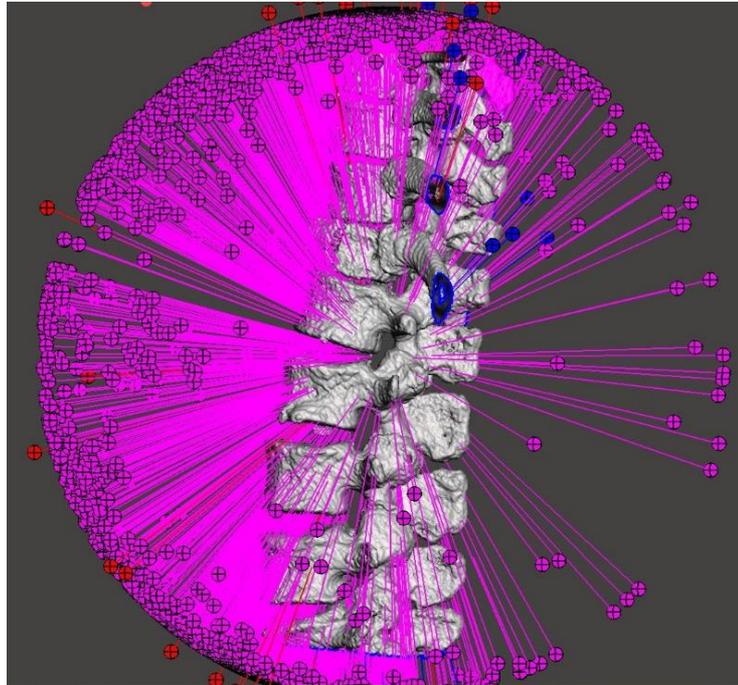


Figure 10: Screenshot Meshmixer™ – inspection and autorepair

After the autorepair, the surface was closed (Figure 11). The created dataset was huge. This 3D model had more than 250 MB. The numbers of triangles were 1 795 004. One feature of Meshmixer™ is the reduction of the surface defining triangles. 506 161 triangles and 43,4 MB was the final result. The file was saved as a .obj file.

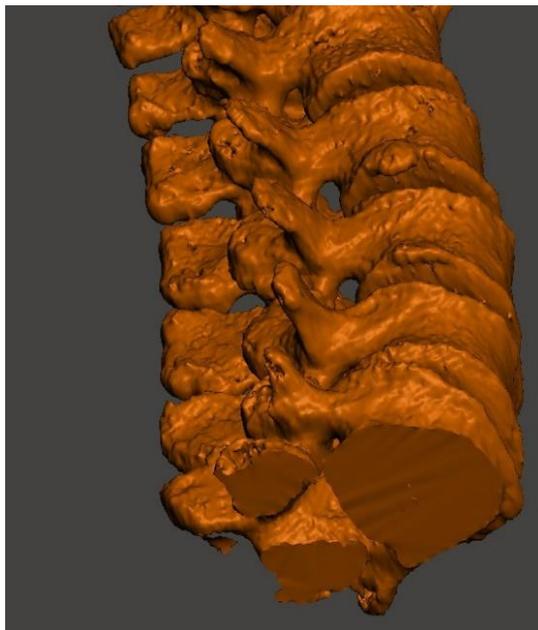


Figure 11: Screenshot Meshmixer™ – reducing the triangles

3.4 Distributing in the world wide web

One reason for the big data reduction was Amazon Sumerian (Amazon Web Service Inc., Seattle, WA). This platform can only import files up to a maximum size of 50 MB. Amazon Sumerian is a developer tool for 3D applications. After creating an account, it's quite easy to create a 3D application.

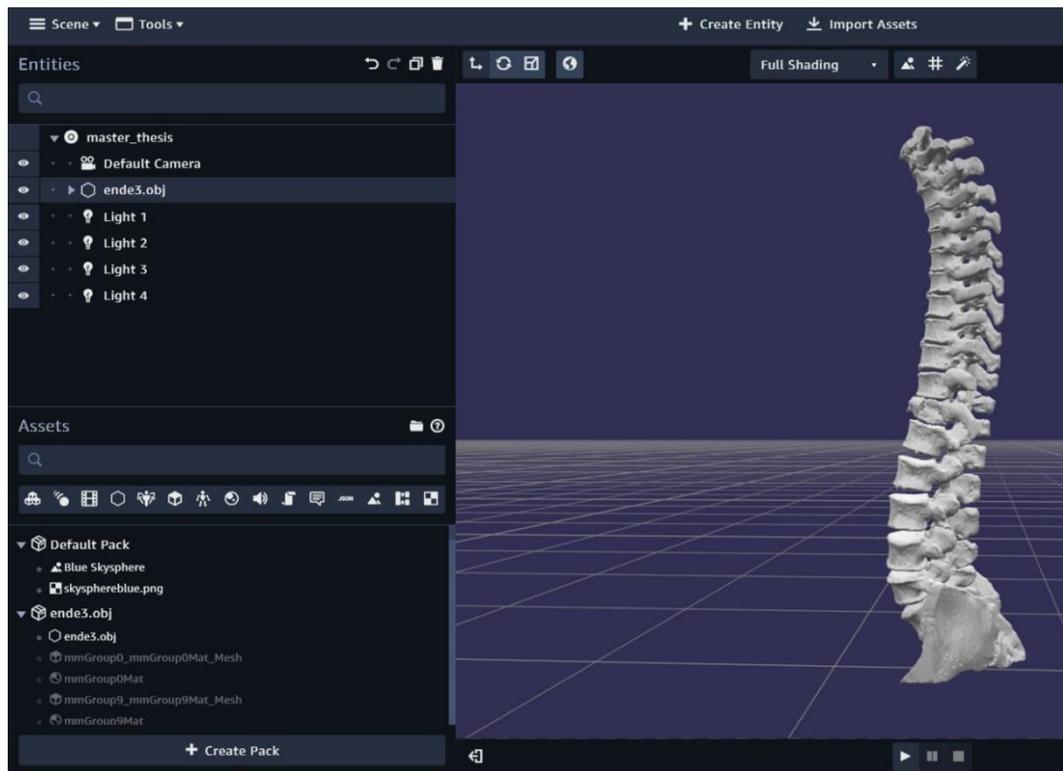


Figure 12: Amazon Sumerian – scene view from the side

For creating a 3D spine scene, the reconstructed 3D spine model was imported. One of the possible import formats is .an obj file. A function for importing .stl files is not given. Four spotlights put the model in perspective (Figure 12).

At least the 3D scene was published on this amazon platform. With the URL-code the scene can be visited with nearly every internet explorer (Figure 13). In the framework of the survey this platform was used. The URL-Code can also be used by a mobile device like a smartphone.

3 Prototype of the 3D model



Figure 13: Amazon Sumerian – published in the www

4 Requirements & Methodology

The evaluation of patient information is a recurrent issue of the insurance and healthcare provider. The use of the supportive media / tools in this context is often neglected. Therefore, this master's thesis has attempted to evaluate the supporting tools.

4.1 Study design

The study was designed as a simulated monocentral randomized pilot trial. Data were evaluated by using a descriptive statistic. The participants were randomized in a case or control group. Simulated means in this context, that the participants were not really hurt. As part of the patient information, the informer physician tells the proband, that they have hurt their backbone.

Some Information about the medical data:

- *For less bias, the informer doctor had chosen one injury for all of the study participants (case and control group). To all probands of the case group - the same 3D computer model was shown.*
- *All probands (case and control group) saw the same x-ray and CT images.*
- *The medical dataset showed a subacute vertebral body fracture, planned for surgical reconstruction.*
- *The anonym dataset has been transferred to a 3D visualisation dataset (not printed – only on the screen of the informer doctor).*

The ethics committee of the Federal State Lower Austria stated, that there is no obligation for this study to be submitted to an ethics committee.

4.1.1 Participants

In total, 48 probands were recruited. All participants were personally invited to be part of this study. All confirmed probands were reminded by email and SMS two times. The age and gender were approximately evenly distributed. No consideration was given to their educational status in the selection and randomization of study participants.

Inclusion criteria:

- Informed consent
- Age > 18 years
- No cognitive limitations
- No visual limitations (glasses carrier or contact lenses allowed)

Exclusion criteria:

- Spine operation in the last 6 months
- No understanding of the German language
- Healthcare professions

4.1.2 Randomization

For the randomization 24 little notes with the word “Fallgruppe” and also 24 little notes with the word “Kontrollgruppe” were hidden in a bullet. In a big box the bullets were categorized in four groups, based on the age of the probands. The randomization was blinded for the participants.

After the call for the patient information conversation, the proband had to take a bullet from right age category out of the box. All probands were informed by the same physician and a script was used to ensure consistency in the given information.

The case group (“Fallgruppe”) received as part of the informed consent discussion an individual 3D computer model, x-ray images, informed consent sheet and hand drawn sketches. The control group (“Kontrollgruppe”) got the information exemplified by same utilities except the individual 3D computer model.

The declaration of consent was taken by the same physician for both groups. The sample survey was conducted on two separate dates. For both groups, the evaluation was based on the same printed questionnaire.

4.1.3 Procedure

The first task was the data visualisation. The defined physician, who performed all the patient information, chose one anonym CT imaging data set. The requirement of the trial author was an injury of a thoracic/lumbar vertebral body.

The CT images were stored two-dimensional in DICOM Standard. The next step was the transfer of the 2 D data into a 3D data set. This data set was fundamental for the patient information of the participants in the case group. After the data processing, 48 people had been chosen for the study.

The probands came into the examination/meeting room. The randomization was done. The physician explained the probands which part of the body is injured. He informed the proband about risks, alternatives and opportunities. At the end of the patient information, the proband signed the declaration of consent. The probands was able to ask questions anytime to the informer physician. At the end of the information conversation, the informer physician handed out the questionnaire.

After a short break for processing the impressions of the patient information talk, the proband took time to complete the questionnaire.

4.2 Questionnaire development

A psychometric measurement procedure which provides quantitative information describing characteristics of people is called questionnaire [48, p. 11]. For getting information, a questionnaire based on a report of the Austrian health government, called "Bericht zur prä- und postoperativen Patienteninformation und -aufklärung" [49] was the fundament. Furthermore, know-how of other questionnaires like the valid questionnaire of Snyder-Ramos et al. in the paper "Entwicklung eines Fragebogens zur Erfassung der Qualität der Narkoseaufklärung" [7] and the paper from Hermann et al. "Webbasiertes audiovisuelles Patienten-Informationssystem - Eine Pilotstudie über die präoperative Patientenaufklärung" [46] was included into the newly developed questionnaire.

This questionnaire allowed the probands to evaluate the informed consent discussion, especially the used media and tools. The questionnaire was used to assess satisfaction, comprehensibility, completeness and recall. Furthermore, the necessity of portable printed and computer 3D models was asked. The participants of the control group were still able to assess the "avoidable advantage of a used 3D model" in the patient information talk. With the exception of recall, all other topics were subjective impressions.

From the study of Williams et al. we know that fear decreases in the patient information by using tools such as videos [50]. That's also the reason for asking the probands about their "safety feelings". The writer claims, that safety feeling is the better word for anxiety or fear.

One goal of the questionnaire was the evaluation of the objective topic "recall". Weng et al. found out, that only 70 % of patients in hospitals could recall the surgical risks of an operation. The nature of the operation had been understood from most participants [51]. Nnabugwu et al. described similar results. About 80%

of the study participants were able to reproduce the nature of the illness. But only about 20% could remember the risks [52].

The basic structure of the questionnaire is as follows:

- The first (of five) page(s) of the questionnaire contains basic information about workflow and anonymity
- The first question serves the distinction of case and control group
- Five questions about **comprehensibility**; first question is global; second question is for evaluating the media used
- Four questions about **completeness**; first question is global
- Four questions about the **recall**
- Four questions about **satisfaction**; first question is global; second question is for evaluating the media used
- Two questions about the **necessity** of portable computers or printed 3D models
- Additional question only for the case group: assumed advantages due to the use of a 3D model
- Feedback in an open structure
- Questions about gender, education and age of the participant

To avoid a simple true/false question, a 4-point Likert scale was chosen [53, p. 144]. For a better understanding, the 4-point Likert scale was figuratively depicted with smileys and explained to every proband (Figure 14).

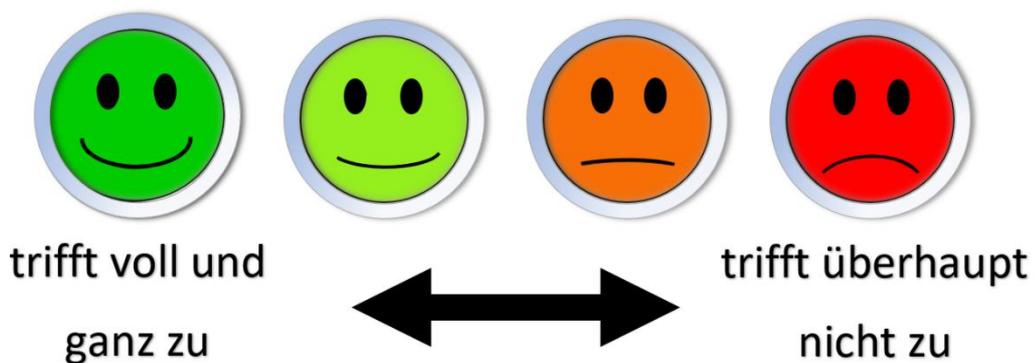


Figure 14: 4-point Likert scale based on smileys

The full questionnaire is attached in Appendix B.

4.3 Survey

The informed consent discussion was conducted on the 17th and the 24th of January 2019 in the department of trauma surgery at the university hospital of St. Pölten (Figure 15). The patient information was carried out by one single surgeon. This physician is a specialist in orthopaedic and trauma surgery.

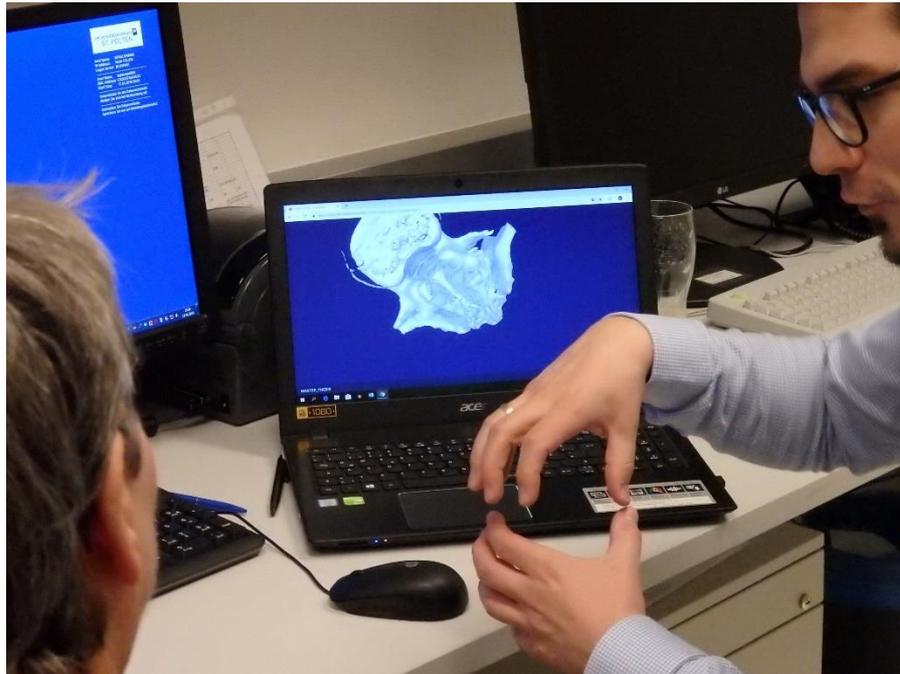


Figure 15: patient information based on a 3D computer model

Every participant of the study was welcomed. First of all, the proband had to read and sign the declaration of consent. After explaining the procedure, the proband was called into the examination room where the randomization took place. For the case group, the focus was on the 3D computer model. Every question was explained, based on the 3D computer model. The informed consent sheet (Thieme Compliance ChN 4a, Thieme GmbH, Stuttgart; Appendix C), the hand-drawn sketches and the x-ray images were also part of the information talk. The control group was informed by the same media without the 3D computer model. The medical history, which is often a part of the informed consent discussion, was omitted in the patient information. There was no time limit for the information talk. Furthermore, each conversation was conducted individually by the physician with the probands.

After a break of 10 minutes, the probands were called once again in another meeting room to fill out the questionnaire on their own. The questionnaires were collected anonymously in a box.

4.3.1 Standardized Informed consent discussion

The following text has been provided by Dr. Karner, who was the performing physician in the informed consent discussion. The text below was the content for the case group. The content of the patient-information talk for the control group was quite similar, but no 3D computer model was used.

„Sehr geehrte(r) PatientIn!

Bei Ihnen wurde anhand der Röntgenbilder und der Bilder einer Computertomographie Ihrer Wirbelsäule ein Bruch des 12. Brustwirbelkörpers festgestellt. Da der Bruch sowohl die auf Druck belasteten vorderen Anteile des Wirbels, den sogenannten Wirbelkörper, wie auch die auf Zug belasteten hinteren Anteile, den Wirbelbogen und den Dornfortsatz, betrifft, muss der Bruch operiert werden, um ein gutes Behandlungsergebnis zu erzielen.

Die Wirbelsäule besteht aus 7 Halswirbeln, 12 Brustwirbeln, von denen die Rippen ausgehen, sowie 5 Lendenwirbeln. An die Lendenwirbelsäule schließt sich das aus normalerweise 5 miteinander verwachsenen Wirbeln bestehende Kreuzbein an. Der zuvor genannte Wirbelbogen bildet gemeinsam mit dem Hinterrand des Wirbelkörpers das Wirbelloch.

In der Gesamtheit der säulenartigen Struktur der Wirbelsäule bilden die Wirbellöcher den Wirbelkanal, der das Rückenmark und Nervenwurzeln beinhaltet. Die Nervenwurzeln treten paarig zwischen jeweils 2 übereinanderliegenden Wirbeln, in der Nähe der kleinen Wirbelgelenke, aus. Der gebrochene 12. Lendenwirbel liegt in einer anatomischen Krümmung der Wirbelsäule, dem so genannten thorakolumbalen Übergang, der über ein hohes Maß an Beweglichkeit verfügt. Die übrigen knöchernen Teile Ihrer Wirbelsäule sind nicht verletzt. Zum besseren Verständnis wurde ein 3D-Modell Ihrer Wirbelsäule mit einer lebensnahen Darstellung des Knochenbruches angefertigt.

Damit ein Knochenbruch zur Heilung gebracht werden kann, muss er ausreichend lange ruhiggestellt werden. In der Vergangenheit wurde dies hauptsächlich durch Lagerung im Gipsbett und anschließender Mobilisierung in einem Gipskorsett für insgesamt bis zu 3 Monaten bewerkstelligt. Dieses Verfahren ist durch die lange Dauer der Immobilisation komplikationsträchtig, vor allem durch Komplikationen durch die Bettruhe und die langstreckige Hemmung der Beweglichkeit des Rumpfes.

Die Operation, zu der wir Ihnen raten, basiert ebenfalls auf den Prinzipien der Ruhigstellung des Bruches. Es wird dabei das Bewegungssegment ober- und unterhalb des gebrochenen 12. Brustwirbels vorübergehend stabilisiert. Im

konkreten Fall bedeutet das, dass der 11. Brustwirbel künstlich mit dem 1. Lendenwirbel verspannt wird, um den dazwischenliegenden 12. Brustwirbel von jeder noch so kleinen Bewegung komplett zu entlasten. Bei einer definitiven Versteifung würden die Bandscheiben chirurgisch entfernt und ein mit Knochenmaterial gefüllter Platzhalter eingebracht, was in Ihrem Fall vorerst nicht erforderlich ist, wenngleich aufgrund der Bruchform und dem Verlauf der Bruchlinie anzunehmen ist, dass auch die Bandscheiben geschädigt sein dürften.

Die Operation muss in Allgemeinnarkose, auch Vollnarkose genannt, durchgeführt werden, da eine Bauchlagerung auf dem Operationstisch erforderlich ist. Diese Lagerung wird unterstützt durch spezielle Pölster und Lagerungsbehelfe unter dem Schultergürtel und dem Becken, wodurch eine Aufrichtung des in seiner Höhe reduzierten Wirbelkörpers erzielt wird. Nach dieser unblutigen Einrichtung werden am Rücken insgesamt vier ca. zwei Zentimeter lange Hautschnitte, zwei zu beiden Seiten der Mitte der Wirbelsäule, angelegt. Über diese Schnitte werden mittels spezieller Zielinstrumente sogenannte Pedikelschrauben durch die Wirbelbögen in den Wirbelkörper geschraubt, wo diese den besten Halt vorfinden.

Der Eintrittspunkt, an dem der Knochen zur Aufnahme der Schrauben angebohrt wird, befindet sich in der Nähe der kleinen Wirbelgelenke an der Hinterfläche der aufnehmenden Wirbel. Die Schrauben führen dabei am knöchernen Wirbelkanal, der auf dieser Höhe das Rückenmark und Nervenwurzeln beinhaltet, vorbei. Die Köpfe der Schrauben sind mit Halterungen für ein Längsgestänge versehen, welches entsprechend der normalen Anatomie des betroffenen Wirbelsäulenabschnittes vorbereitet wird. Das Gestänge wird in die Schrauben eingesetzt und anschließend fest verspannt, was die eigentliche Stabilisierung darstellt. Insgesamt werden vier Schrauben und zwei Stäbe eingesetzt. Die verwendeten Materialien bestehen aus einer Titanlegierung. Abschließend werden Drainagen eingelegt, die Muskelschichten und die Haut werden vernäht und ein Verband wird angelegt. Nach Entfernung der Drainagen nach ca. 2 Tagen wird mit der Mobilisierung begonnen, das heißt, dass Sie wieder normal zu gehen beginnen sollen.

Wie bei jeder Operation gibt es auch hier die Möglichkeit von Komplikationen. Neben allgemeinen Komplikationen wie Blutungen, Infektionen und Schmerzen sind vor allem folgende spezielle Komplikationen zu nennen: Verletzung von Rückenmark oder Nervenwurzeln durch chirurgische Instrumente oder eingebrachte Schrauben mit der Gefahr vorübergehender oder bleibender Lähmungen, Ausriss der Schrauben, sowie Verlust von Nervenwasser nach Verletzung der Rückenmarkshaut, was vor allem starke Kopfschmerzen zur Folge hätte. In den meisten Fällen ist eine neuerliche Operation erforderlich.“

4.3.2 Subject Information- and Declaration of Consent

The subject information and declaration of consent form (Appendix 0) consisted of

- General information about the study
- Aim of the study
- Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
- Voluntary of the participation
- Procedure of the trial
- Benefits, risks, cancellation and payment
- Confidentiality of the data
- Contact person

The probands agreed with image and video records. The raw data must be destroyed after 10 years.

4.3.3 Technical Equipment

The 3D computer model was shown on an Acer Aspire E15 Notebook with a graphic card from NVIDIA®Geforce® 940MX with 2 GB dedicated VRAM. The size of the display is 15,6" with a matrix of 1920x1080 pixels.

All x-rays were shown on the medical viewing monitor BRACO Nio Color 3MP MDNC-3421 (BRACO, Kortrijk, Belgium). The IPS-TFT Colour LCD has a screen diagonal of 21,3". The matrix is 2048x1536 pixels.

5 Evaluation / Results

Kind of evaluation

The results were stored in a MICROSOFT EXCEL© 2016 (Version 16.0.11328.20156) database. For a descriptive evaluation, the mean value and the standard deviation was compared between the case and the control group.

The scores ranged from 3 to 0 points. If the question was phrased in a positive way, 3 points corresponds with true, 2 points with rather true, 1 point with rather false and 0 point corresponds with false. This applied to question 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4 and for the case group only to question 7.1.

Questions 6.1 and 6.2 were special cases. They were true/false questions. If the proband rated "true", 3 points were deposited. In return of the meaning "false" corresponded with 0 point. Here there were only the possibility of 3 or 0 points to gain.

If the question was phrased in a negative way, 3 points corresponded with false, 2 points with rather false, 1 point with rather true and 0 point corresponded with true. This applied to question 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.2 and 5.3. Question 3.3 was a negative true/false question. The points were awarded analogously to 6.1 and 6.2. That meant false corresponds with 3 points and true with 0 points.

In order to be able to evaluate the questions of the recall, the correct answers were assigned with 3 points and all wrong with 0 points. That concerns the questions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

That means, that the mean value can be maximum 3 points, if all probands assess all positive questions as true and all negative questions as false.

The possibility of this kind of evaluation is based on John Brooke "quick and dirty usability scale" [54]. In his work, he describes the possibility of awarding points between positive and negative questions. The score also begins with 0 point. This means analogically to the used 4-point-likert-scale, that the potential point value is between 0 and 3 points.

5.1 Global evaluation

The average age of all probands was $43,98 \pm 14,89$ years. In the case group (3D model) the average age was $43,42 \pm 14,91$ years and in the control group (conventional information consent) was $44,54 \pm 15,16$ years. 52,1% of the participants were female.

There was one proband with a “higher education level” (university degree) in the case group and four in the control group. Only one person of the case group was in the category of “low education” (mandatory school graduation).

In Table 2, the distribution between the case and the control group based on gender is shown.

case group		control group	
24 probands		24 probands	
male	female	male	female
13	11	10	14

Table 2: classification of the probands based on gender

The following chart (Table 3) gives an overview about age of the probands in the case and the control group.

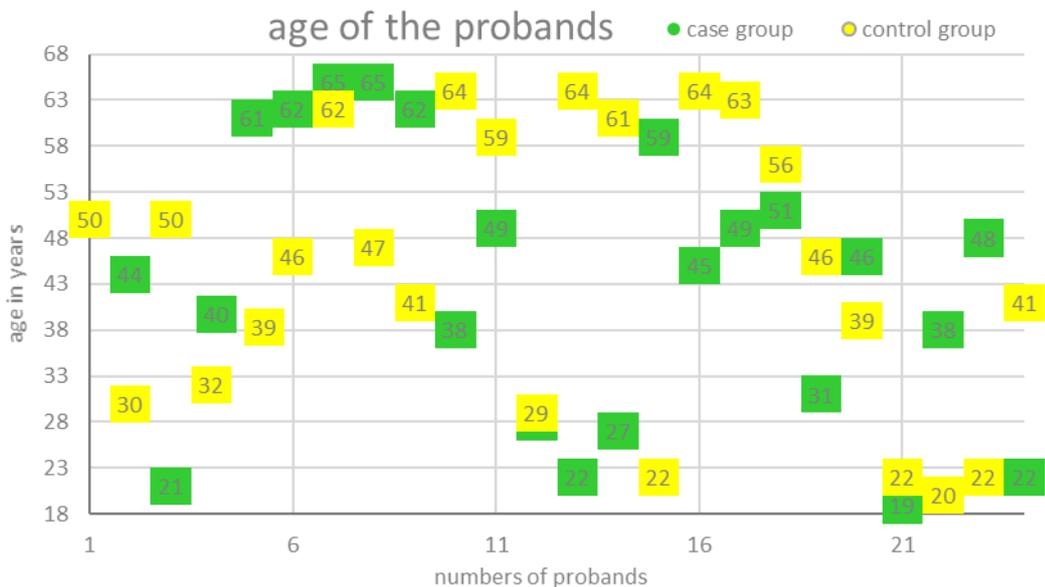


Table 3: age of the probands

For a better understanding, a detailed division is shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

case group (n=24)						
n	category of age	n	gender	n	education	n
24	18-30 years	6	male	3	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	2
					Middle mature graduation	1
					University degree	0
		female	3	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	0	
				Middle mature graduation	3	
				University degree	0	
	31-45 years	7	male	4	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	4
					Middle mature graduation	0
					University degree	0
		female	3	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	3	
				Middle mature graduation	0	
				University degree	0	
	46-60 years	6	male	3	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	1
					Middle mature graduation	1
					University degree	1
female		3	Mandatory school	1		
			Skilled trades	1		
			Middle mature graduation	1		
			University degree	0		
60 years or older	5	male	3	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	3	
				Middle mature graduation	0	
				University degree	0	
	female	2	Mandatory school	0		
			Skilled trades	2		
			Middle mature graduation	0		
			University degree	0		

Table 4: classification of the case group based on age, gender and education

control group (n=24)						
n	category of age	n	gender	n	education	n
24	18-30 years	6	male	2	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	1
				Middle mature graduation	0	
				University degree	1	
		4	female	4	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	1
				Middle mature graduation	2	
				University degree	1	
	31-45 years	6	male	1	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	0
					Middle mature graduation	1
					University degree	0
		5	female	5	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	3
					Middle mature graduation	1
					University degree	1
	46-60 years	6	male	3	Mandatory school	0
					Skilled trades	1
					Middle mature graduation	1
					University degree	1
3		female	3	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	3	
				Middle mature graduation	0	
				University degree	0	
60 years or older	6	male	4	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	3	
				Middle mature graduation	1	
				University degree	0	
	2	female	2	Mandatory school	0	
				Skilled trades	2	
				Middle mature graduation	0	
				University degree	0	

Table 5: classification of the control group based on age, gender and education

Global results, after consideration of comprehensibility, completeness, recall and satisfaction, are quite similar. Results of the case group (2,77) are, in comparison to the control group (2,73), closer to the best value of 3 points (Table 6). A result of 3 points means, that everybody is absolutely satisfied with the doctor-patient communication. The probands knew everything in the audit and was of the opinion, that the informed consent discussion was fully complete, without further questions. But normally not every proband was of this opinion. The mean value of the case group was $2,77 \pm 0,68$ and the mean value of the control group was $2,73 \pm 0,56$. There was a minimal difference between male and female probands. In the case and control group, female probands show better results than male probands. Women were more convinced, using a 3D visualisation ($2,80 \pm 0,66$) in a doctor-patient conversation.

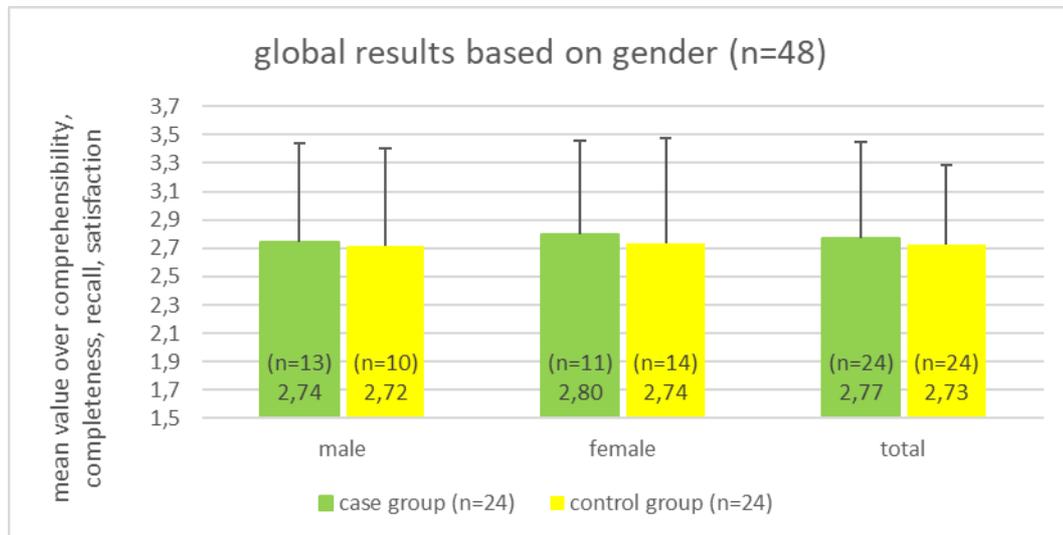


Table 6: mean value over comprehensibility, completeness, recall, satisfaction based on gender

Looking at the chart based on age (Table 7), probands of the case group between 46 and 60 years old, were most convinced using a 3D visualisation in a doctor-patient conversation ($2,83 \pm 0,51$) just followed by the probands of the case group between 31 and 45 years ($2,82 \pm 0,64$).

The overall results in the group based on legal registration, compared to the case group, were only higher in the age group over 61 years (control group $2,75 \pm 0,62$) and in the group with participants between 18 and 30 years (control group $2,73 \pm 0,75$). In the two age groups between 31-45 and 46-60 years, the global results are better in the 3D group. The lowest mean value concerning comprehensibility, completeness, recall and satisfaction was in the case group between 18-30 years ($2,69 \pm 0,76$).

5 Evaluation / Results

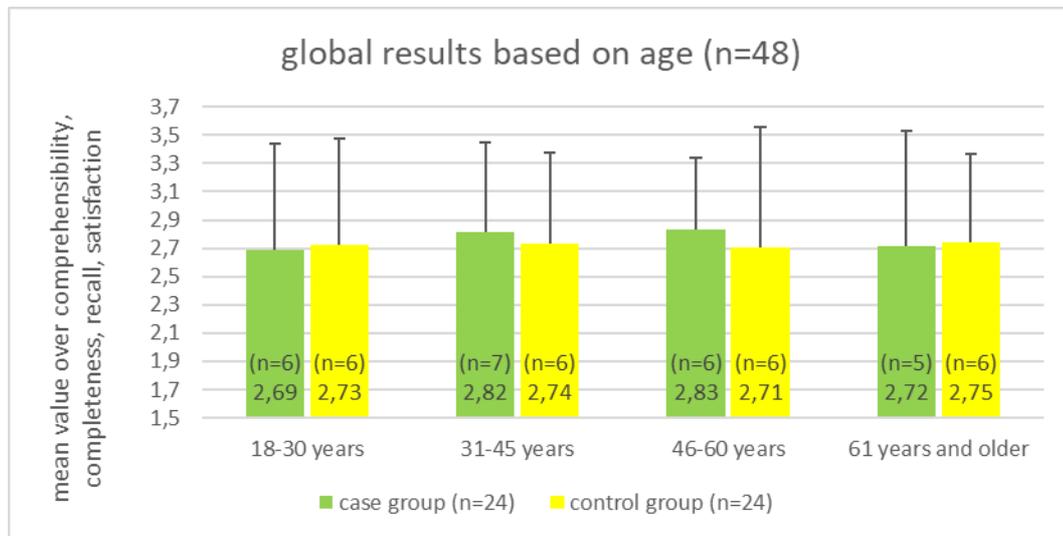


Table 7: mean value over comprehensibility, completeness, recall, satisfaction based on age

Regarding the level of education (Table 8), a gradient from low to high can be seen. Probandns from the case group with the highest level of education (2,65) returned worst results concerning comprehensibility, completeness, recall and satisfaction. In the control group, the results raised with higher level of education. The best results in the control group based on education were shown with the university degree (2,84 ± 0,61).

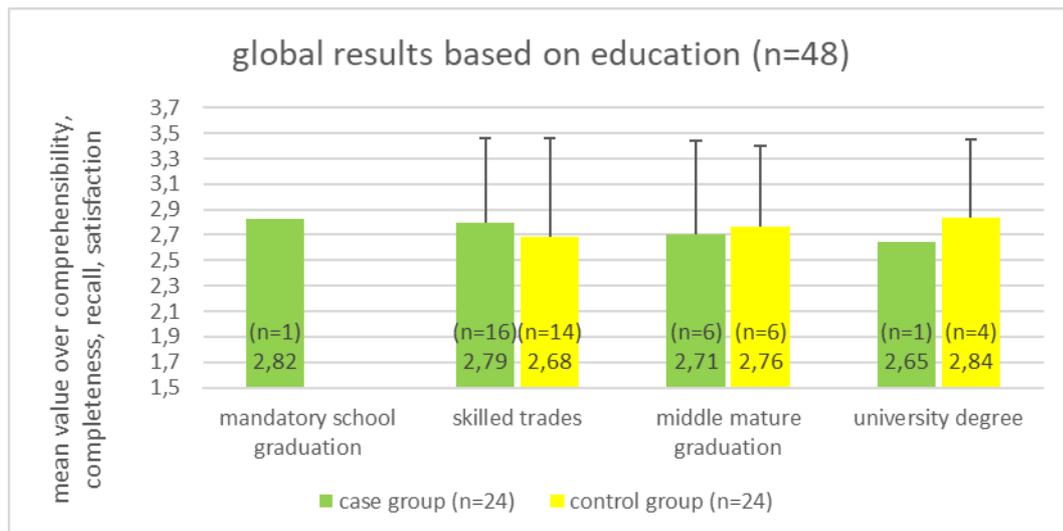


Table 8: mean value over comprehensibility, completeness, recall, satisfaction based on education

5.2 Evaluation of the comprehensibility

To evaluate the comprehensibility five questions were prepared. The first question was a global question about the comprehensibility, the second about the methods and the media used and the third to the fifth question were control questions which were negatively formulated.

The difference between the case and the control group were marginal (Table 9). Male probands found the conventional doctor-patient talk more understandable. The comprehensibility in the case group preponderates by the female probands ($2,84 \pm 0,42$).

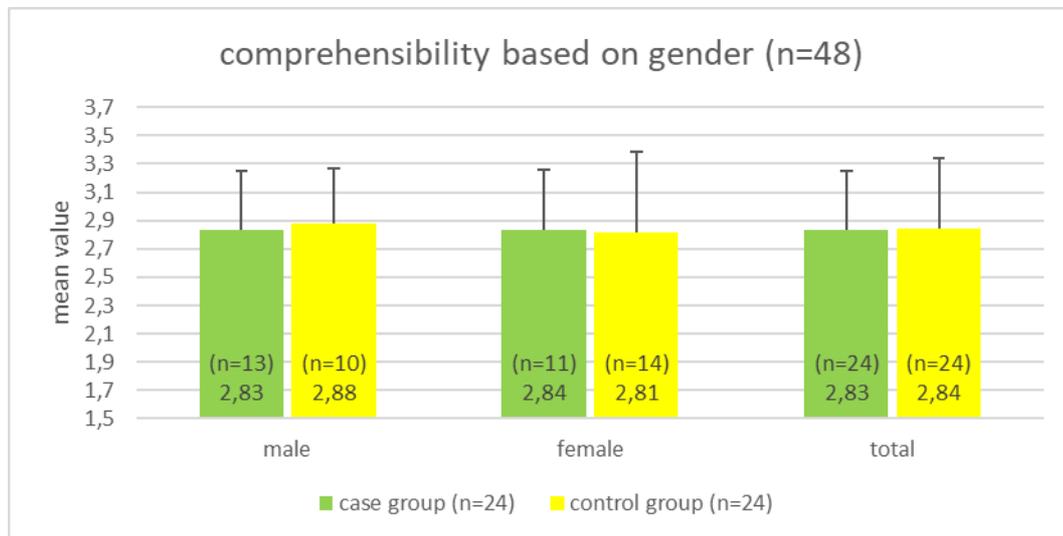


Table 9: mean value over comprehensibility based on gender

Considering the age categories (Table 10), probands between 46 and 60 years, who had the conventional doctor-patient talk, reached $2,97 \pm 0,18$ points. The age category from 18 to 30 years showed a big standard deviation ($\pm 0,84$) and the worst result (2,67). In the case group, results are between 2,77 and 2,84, with one outlier in the age category 31 to 45 years. Here the result was $2,91 (\pm 0,28)$.

Generally speaking, probands between 31-45 years olds from the case group, and probands between 46-60 years old from the control group, evaluated the informed consent as most comprehensible. The comprehensibility was in the age groups from 18-30 years and 31-45 years better in the case group and in the age category from 46 – 60 years and over 61 years better in the control group

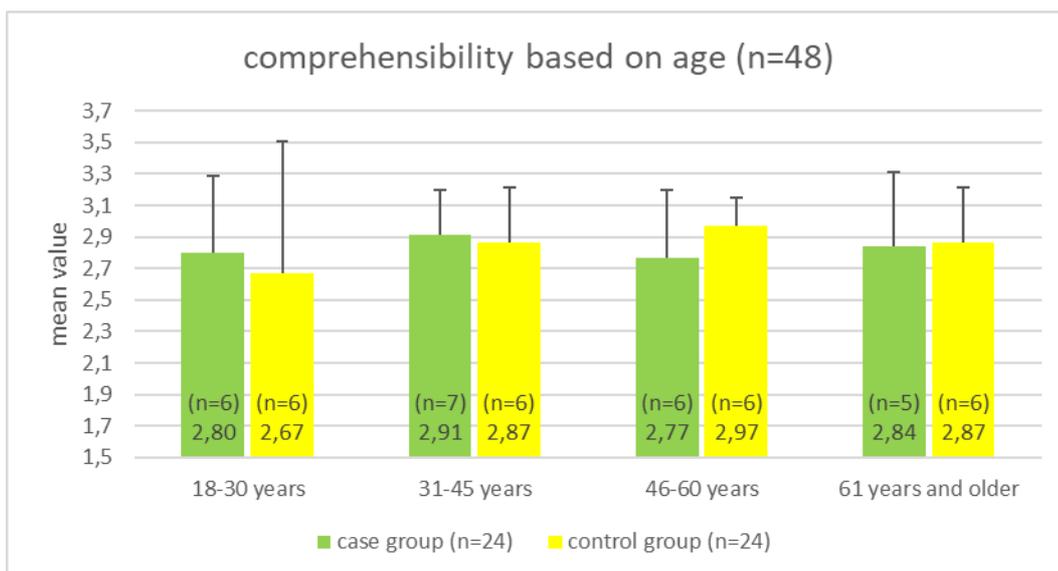


Table 10: mean value over comprehensibility based on age

The following table (Table 11) shows the results of each question in detail. Every mean value and every standard derivation based on gender is shown in this table.

content translation of the questions on the subject of comprehensibility	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
2.1) Did you find the patient information (conversation including supporting tools and media) understandable?	2,96 (±0,20)		2,96 (±0,20)	
	male	female	male	female
	3,00 (±0,00)	2,91 (±0,30)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,93 (±0,27)
2.2) Do you think, the media used in the patient information was understandable?	2,96 (±0,20)		2,83 (±0,38)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,92 (±0,28)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,90 (±0,32)	2,79 (±0,27)
2.3) Did you get confused by the tools / media used in the context of patient information?	2,88 (±0,34)		2,96 (±0,20)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,92 (±0,28)	2,82 (±0,40)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,93 (±0,27)

Table 11: mean value of each question on the subject of comprehensibility / gender

5 Evaluation / Results

content translation of the questions on the subject of comprehensibility	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
2.4) Were too many tools and media been used in patient information?	2,71 ($\pm 0,55$)		2,71 ($\pm 0,75$)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,54 ($\pm 0,66$)	2,91 ($\pm 0,30$)	2,70 ($\pm 0,67$)	2,71 ($\pm 0,83$)
2.5) Do you think that an informed consent discussion without the help of tools and media would be equally understandable?	2,67 ($\pm 0,56$)		2,75 ($\pm 0,68$)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,77 ($\pm 0,44$)	2,55 ($\pm 0,69$)	2,80 ($\pm 0,42$)	2,71 ($\pm 0,83$)

Table 11: mean value of each question on the subject of comprehensibility based on gender

The first question was answered from all male probands with the top grade of 3 points. This means that 95,8 % of all probands perceived the patient information as comprehensible. The 4,2 % which were rather satisfied with the comprehensibility were only female probands of the case and control group and.

With the second query asked, the use of the media was questioned. The proband of the case group had a better result ($2,96 \pm 0,20$) than the probands of the control group ($2,83 \pm 0,38$). 89,6 % of all probands perceived the media used as comprehensible. 44 (from 48) probands was not confused by the media used. 79,2 % were of the opinion that not too many tools were used and 77,1 % think that an informed consent discussion without tools would be less understandable.

Looking at the comprehensibility based on education (Table 12), the case group, with mandatory school graduation, followed by skilled trades, are most convinced by 3D models. The global evaluation results were also visible here. The higher the level of education, the better the conventional patient information regarding comprehensibility was evaluated. That means in reverse, the lower the level of education, the more understandable is the patient information based on 3D computer models.

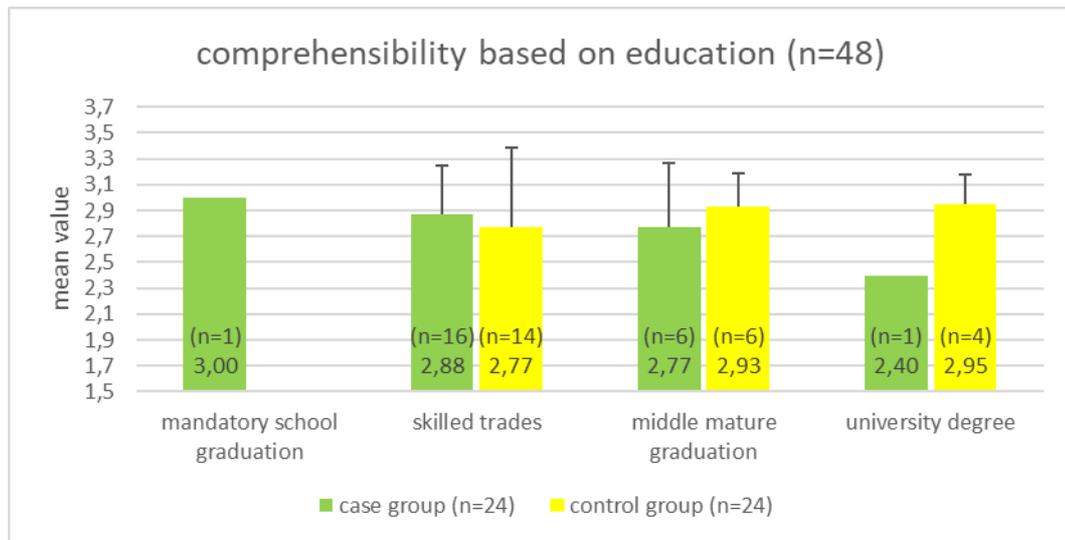


Table 12: mean value over comprehensibility based on education

5.3 Evaluation of the completeness

For the evaluation of the completeness, four global questions were asked. The answers express subjective feelings.

Results show a difference between case and control group (Table 13). The 3D group perceived the patient information as more complete. In a gender-specific analysis, female participants ($2.89 \pm 0,49$) from the case group found the explanation most complete. Male participants from the control group ($2,58 \pm 0,71$) were the least fully informed.

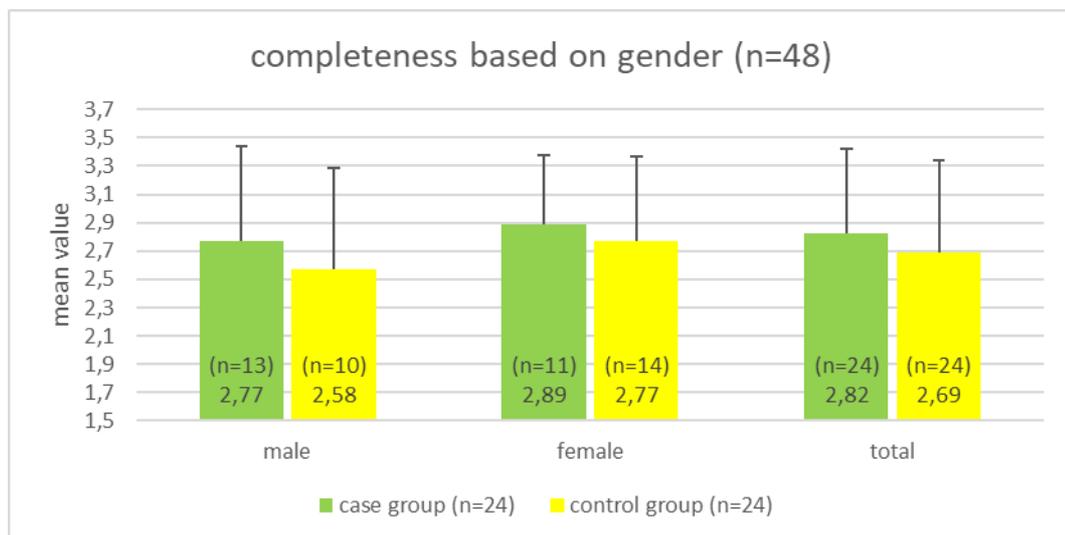


Table 13: mean value over completeness based on gender

5 Evaluation / Results

Evaluating the completeness by age groups (Table 14), older people in the case group felt more fully informed than younger people. Except in the age group of 18-30 years, results of the control group were always below the results of the case group. Basically, older probands felt completely informed. Young probands perceived the conventional patient information based on legal regulations more complete.

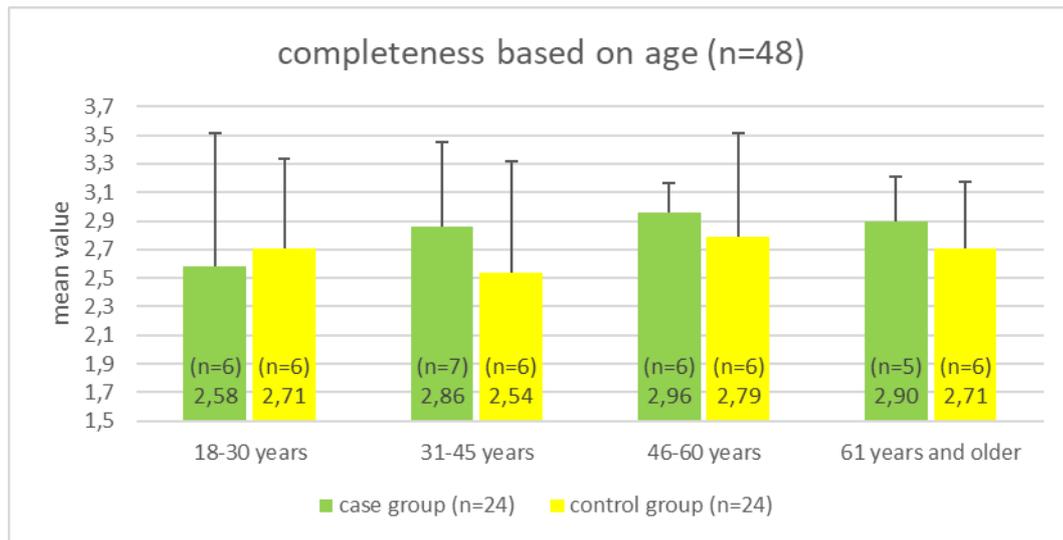


Table 14: mean value over completeness based on age

The table below (Table 15) shows the results of each question about completeness in detail.

content translation of the questions on the subject of completeness	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
3.1) Do you feel completely informed?	3,00 (±0,00)		2,75 (±0,44)	
	male	female	male	female
	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,70 (±0,48)	2,79 (±0,43)
3.2) I would have expected additional information?	2,93 (±0,77)		2,50 (±0,78)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,62 (±0,65)	2,64 (±0,92)	2,30 (±0,82)	2,64 (±0,74)

Table 15: mean value of each question on the subject of completeness based on gender

5 Evaluation / Results

content translation of the questions on the subject of completeness	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
3.3) Did any questions arise in the meantime?	2,75 (±0,85)		2,75 (±0,85)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,54 (±1,13)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,70 (±0,95)	2,79 (±0,80)
3.4) Did you receive a full patient information?	2,92 (±0,28)		2,75 (±0,44)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,92 (±0,28)	2,91 (±0,30)	2,60 (±0,52)	2,86 (±0,36)

Table 15: mean value of each question on the subject of completeness based on gender

Looking at the questions individually, the results of the case group were clearly higher. Question 3.1 was answered by 42 participants (87,5%) with true. 91,7% (44 participants) had no further questions after the informed consent discussion. 40 participants, which corresponds to 83,3 %, were fully informed.

In the evaluation of completeness, based on education (Table 16), the global trend can be confirmed. With an decreasing education, a trend towards 3D patient information can be seen.

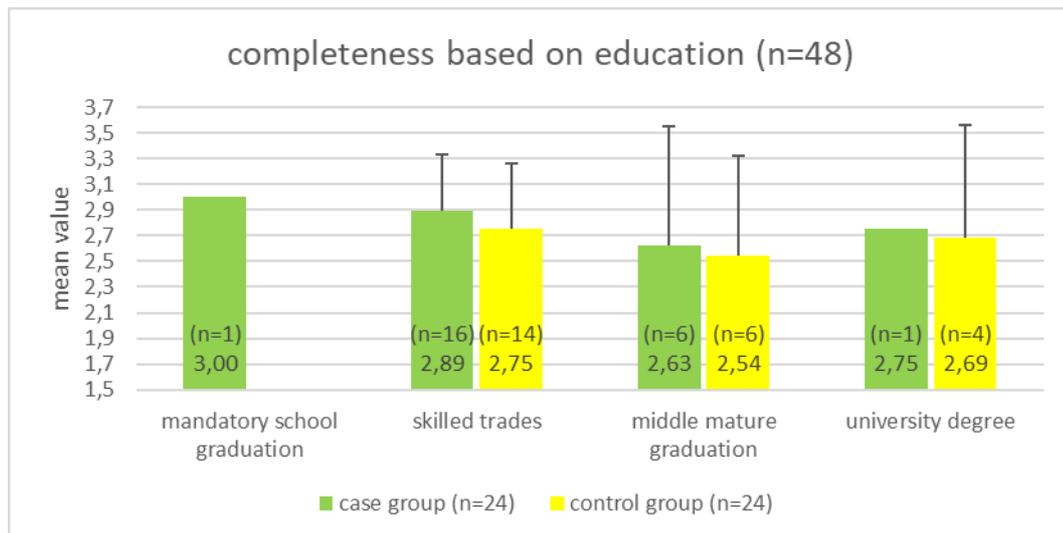


Table 16: mean value over completeness based on education

5.4 Evaluation of the recall

Four questions were asked regarding the topic of recall. The first and second question could only be answered after listening attentively to the patient information. In terms of gender, there were almost no significant differences between case and control group (Table 17).

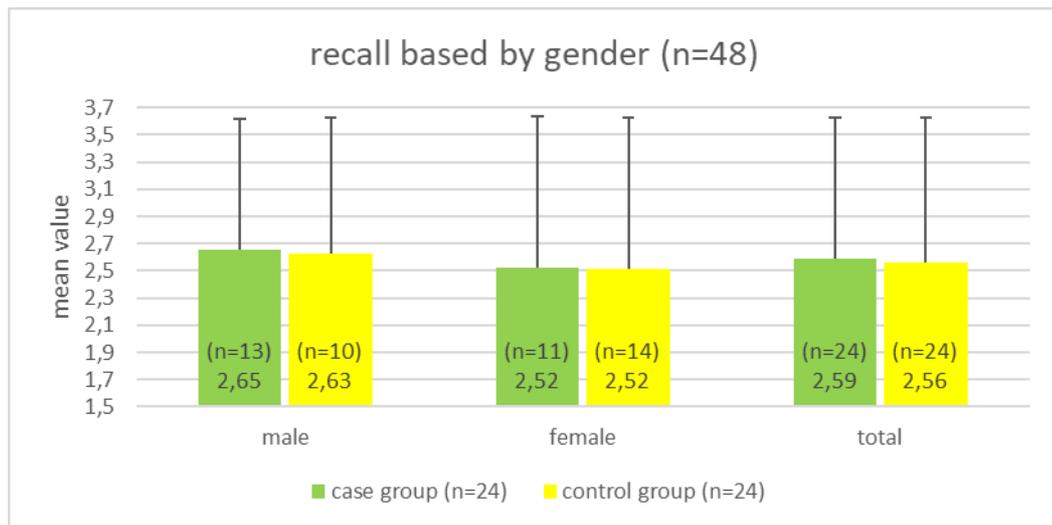


Table 17: mean value over recall based on gender

The worst result concerning recall (Table 18) was in the control group in the age category of 46-60 years ($2,13 \pm 1,39$). On the other hand, this age group had best ratings in the case group ($2,75 \pm 0,85$). The recall is in all age categories better in the control group, except in the age group of 46-60 years.

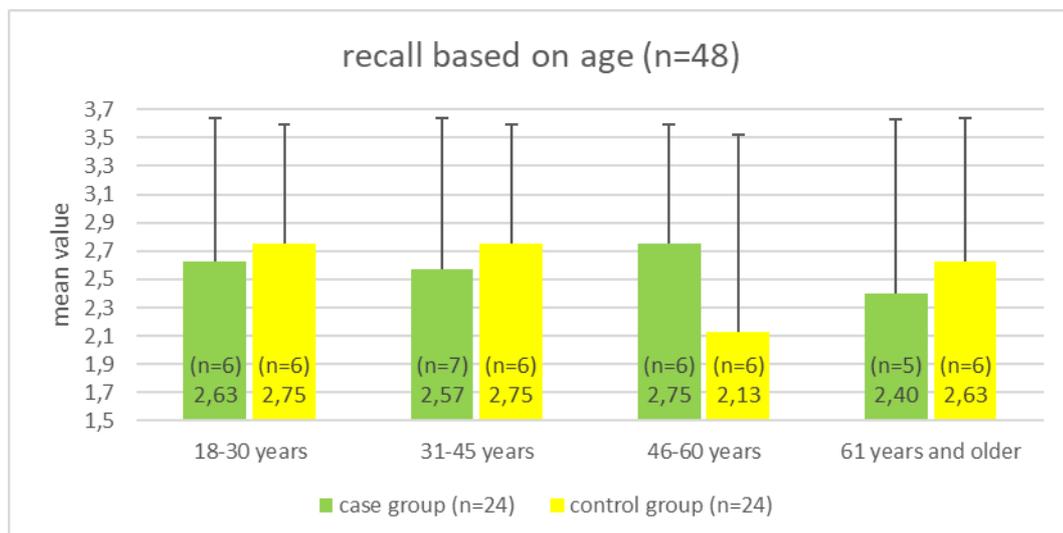


Table 18: mean value over recall based on age

5 Evaluation / Results

The first question concerning the injured vertebra could be better answered in the 3D group. The second answer concerning the number of screws received a slightly better result in the control group. The third and the fourth question was answered from each proband correctly. All answers are shown in the table below (Table 19).

content translation of the questions on the subject of recall	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
4.1) Which vertebral body is injured, according to patient information?	2,5 (±1,14)		2,25 (±1,33)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,54 (±1,13)	2,45 (±1,21)	2,40 (±1,26)	2,14 (±1,41)
4.2) How many screws will be inserted into the spine during surgery?	1,88 (±1,48)		2,00 (±1,44)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,08 (±1,44)	1,64 (±1,57)	2,10 (±1,45)	1,93 (±1,49)
4.3) Where is the incision made in the planned operation?	3,00 (±0,00)		3,00 (±0,00)	
	male	female	male	female
	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)
4.4) What could be a possible complication during surgery?	3,00 (±0,00)		3,00 (±0,00)	
	male	female	male	female
	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)	3,00 (±0,00)

Table 19: mean value of each question on the subject of recall based on gender

20,8 % of all probands thought, that the injured spine body is the vertebral body L1. The right answer was given from 38 participants (79,2%). Question 4.2 was correctly answered by 64,6 % (31 participants). 17 probands (35,4%) thought that 2 screws would be placed in the course of the surgery.

5 Evaluation / Results

Looking at the results of the recall, based on education (Table 20), it is noticeable that the higher the education, the better the participants remember. With the exception of the group of middle mature graduation, the case group showed better results. To sum up, the recall is in all levels of education better in the case group, except in the group of middle mature graduation.

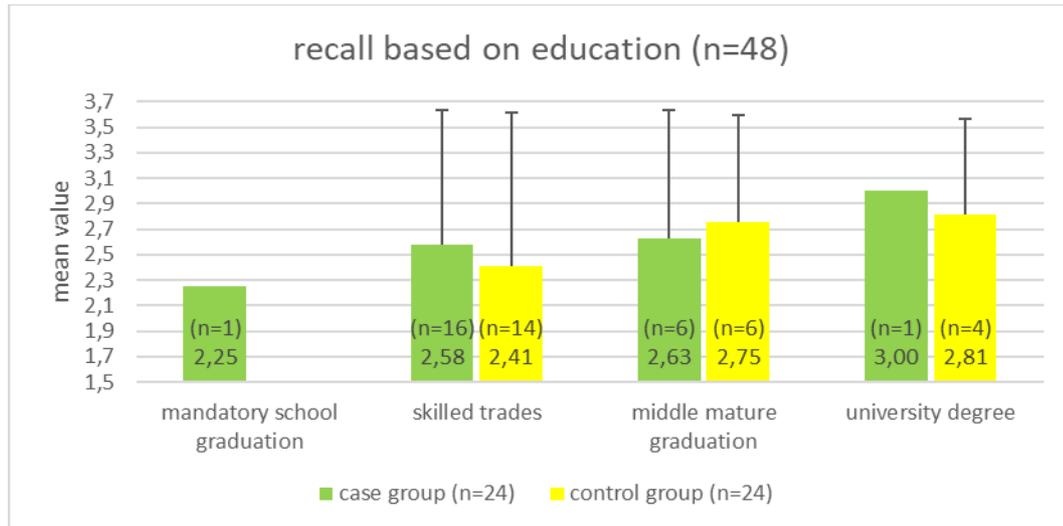


Table 20: mean value over recall based on education

5.5 Evaluation of the satisfaction

The participants could express their satisfaction by answering four questions. While the first question evaluated the satisfaction globally, it was possible to assess the media used by answering the other three questions.

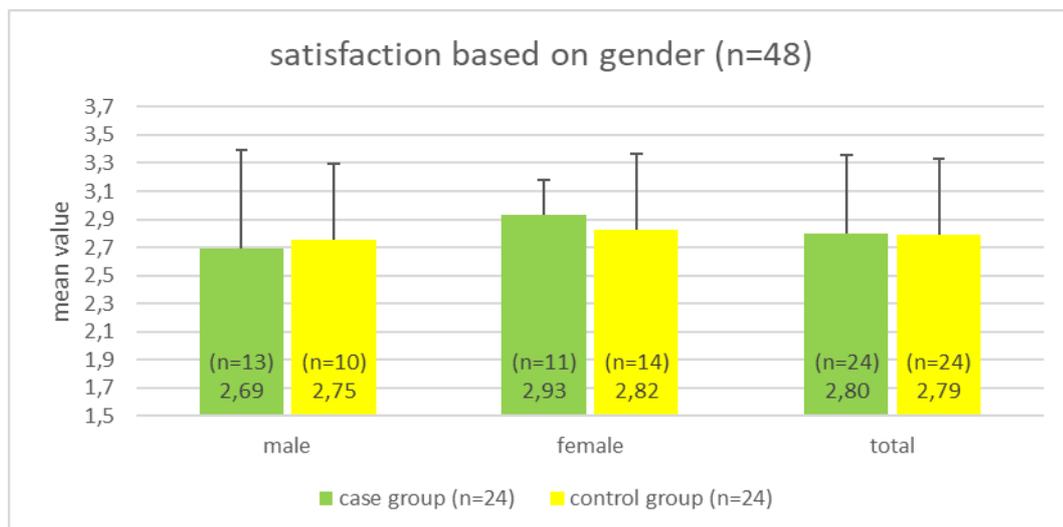


Table 21: mean value over satisfaction based on gender

5 Evaluation / Results

In principle, female participants were more satisfied than male participants (Table 21). Most satisfied were women from the 3D group ($2.93 \pm 0,25$). Basically, there is no significant difference between case and control group.

The analysis of satisfaction by age group shows no clear trend. Strikingly is the huge standard derivation ($0,92$) in the age category of probands over 61 years (Table 22).



Table 22: mean value over satisfaction based on age

An evaluation of each questions regarding the topic of satisfaction shows in the first three questions clearly better results in the case group. The female probands of the control group had the worst results in question 5.2. with $2,60 \pm 0,70$. Only at question four, regarding the feeling of security, the control group ($2,88 \pm 0,45$) was more satisfied. The male probands of the control group had the worst results (question 5.4) with $2,23 \pm 0,93$ compared with the female probands of the control group with $3,00 \pm 0,00$ (Table 23).

content translation of the questions on the subject of satisfaction	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
5.1) Are you satisfied with the patient information (conversation including supportive tools and media)?	3,00 ($\pm 0,00$)		2,88 ($\pm 0,34$)	
	male	female	male	female
	3,00 ($\pm 0,00$)	3,00 ($\pm 0,00$)	2,80 ($\pm 0,42$)	2,93 ($\pm 0,27$)

Table 23: mean value of each question on the subject of satisfaction based on gender

5 Evaluation / Results

content translation of the questions on the subject of satisfaction	case group		control group	
	Mean (standard derivation)		Mean (standard derivation)	
5.2) Are you satisfied with the use of tools and media in the context of patient information?	2,96 (±0,20)		2,79 (±0,51)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,92 (±0,28)	3,00 (±0,00)	2,60 (±0,70)	2,93 (±0,27)
5.3) How do you rate the following statement: "An exclusive discussion is sufficient; any use of tools and media is unnecessary."	2,71 (±0,69)		2,63 (±0,77)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,62 (±0,87)	2,82 (±0,40)	2,90 (±0,32)	2,43 (±0,94)
5.4) Has the use of tools and media contributed to an increase in the sense of security?	2,54 (±0,78)		2,88 (±0,45)	
	male	female	male	female
	2,23 (±0,93)	2,91 (±0,30)	2,70 (±0,67)	3,00 (±0,00)

Table 23: mean value of each question on the subject of satisfaction based on gender

45 participants (93,8%) answered the question 5.1 with true. 6,2 %, which correspond with 3 participants, answered this question with rather true. The question 5.2 concerning the satisfaction through media used was answered by 43 participants (89,6%) with true, four participants (8,3%) with rather true and one (2,1%) with rather false. 37 probands (77,1%) were of the opinion, that an exclusive conversation is not enough. Two probands (4,2%) thought, that tools and media used were superfluous, one (2,1%) were rather superfluous and eight probands (16,7%) believe, that a doctor-patient conversation alone was rather not enough. 79,2% (38 participants) considered that the use of tools had helped to increase the sense of safety. 14,6% (7 participants) claimed that the tools had improved the safety, and 4.1% (2 participants) respectively 2.1% (1 participant) did not agree respectively rather not agreed with the media use to increase the feeling of security.

The satisfaction, based on education (Table 24), decreased in the case group with increasing education. In the control group, a light rise with higher education was to observe.

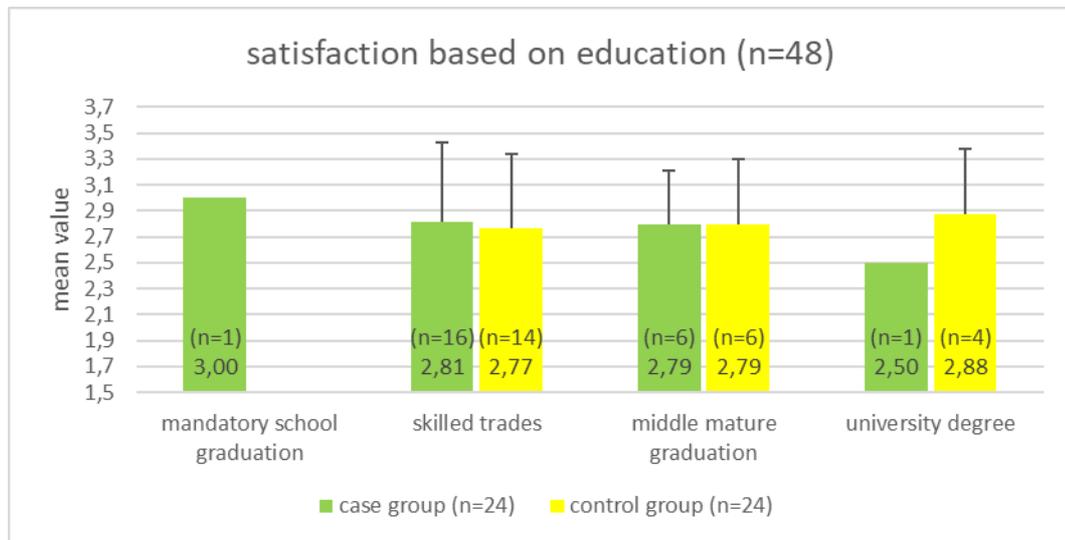


Table 24: mean value over satisfaction based on education

5.6 Evaluation of the necessity of mobility

With these questions, the necessity of mobile tools was evaluated. In the following, each question was evaluated separately for a printed 3D model and for a mobile 3D computer model. The following tables shows the means value and the standard derivation in Table 25 and Table 29 and the numbers of names in Table 26, Table 27, Table 28, Table 30, Table 31 and Table 32.

5.6.1 Necessity of portable printed 3D model

Due to the low numbers, the table shows that there was no clear agreement to the printed 3D model. 27 participants (56,3%) did not care about a printed 3D model for taking home. The probands with the conventional patient information (control group) saw a higher need in the implementation of 3D models. The male probands of the control group ($1,80 \pm 1,55$) expected a greater benefit (Table 25).

The standard derivation in this question was between 1,4 (female, case group) and 1,66 (male, case group). This wide fluctuation range indicates that the probands did not agree with the answer.

In order to correct a wrong image impression, it shall be explicitly pointed out that the representation (Table 25 and Table 29) starts in the following diagram at zero (opposite to all previous diagrams).

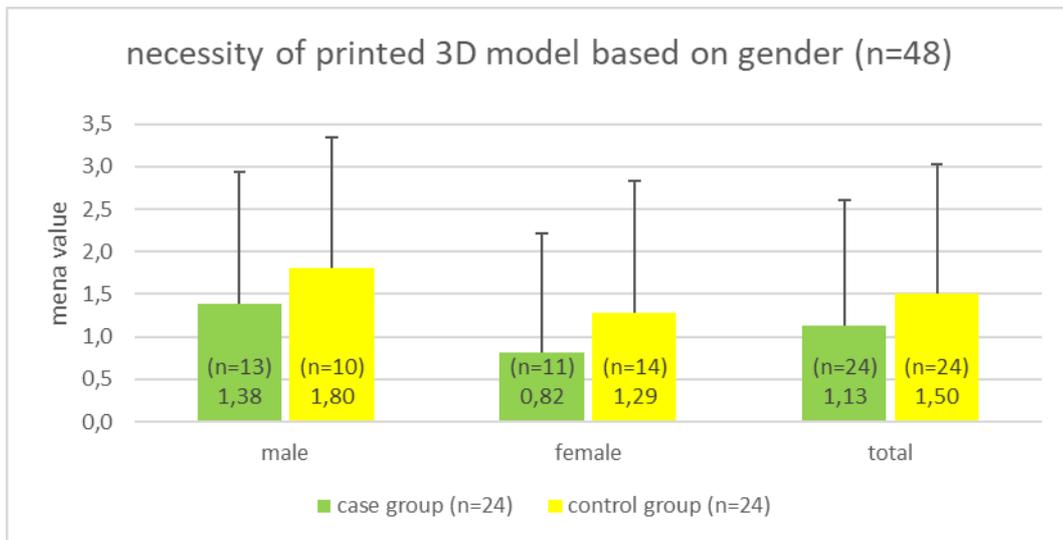


Table 25: mean value over necessity of printed 3D model based on gender

In the case group (3D group) 15 participants were of the opinion, that a printed 3D model would be unnecessary (Table 26).

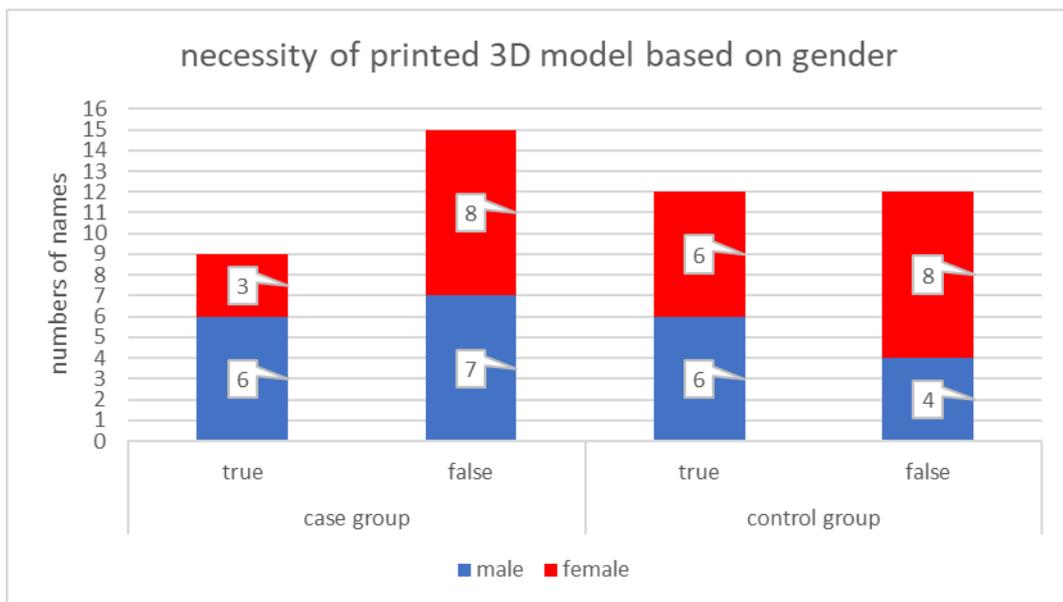


Table 26: numbers of names over necessity of printed 3D model based on gender

Case group participants in the age category between 18-30 year olds did not see any necessity in 3D printed models. The participants from the control group in the age category over 61 year olds were most convinced by printed 3D models (Table 27). More participants from the case group (15) were against a printed 3D model compared with participants from the control group (12).

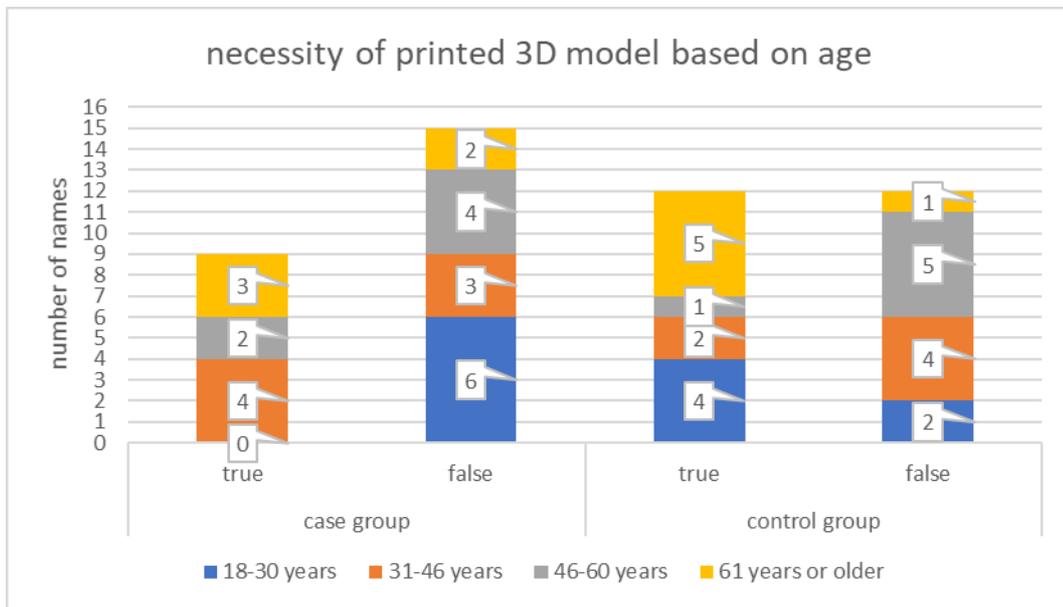


Table 27: numbers of names over necessity of printed 3D model based on age

The number of rejections increased with higher education in general. Four university graduates did not see the need for 3D printed models (Table 28). The approval or rejection from the group of skilled trades was quite balanced.

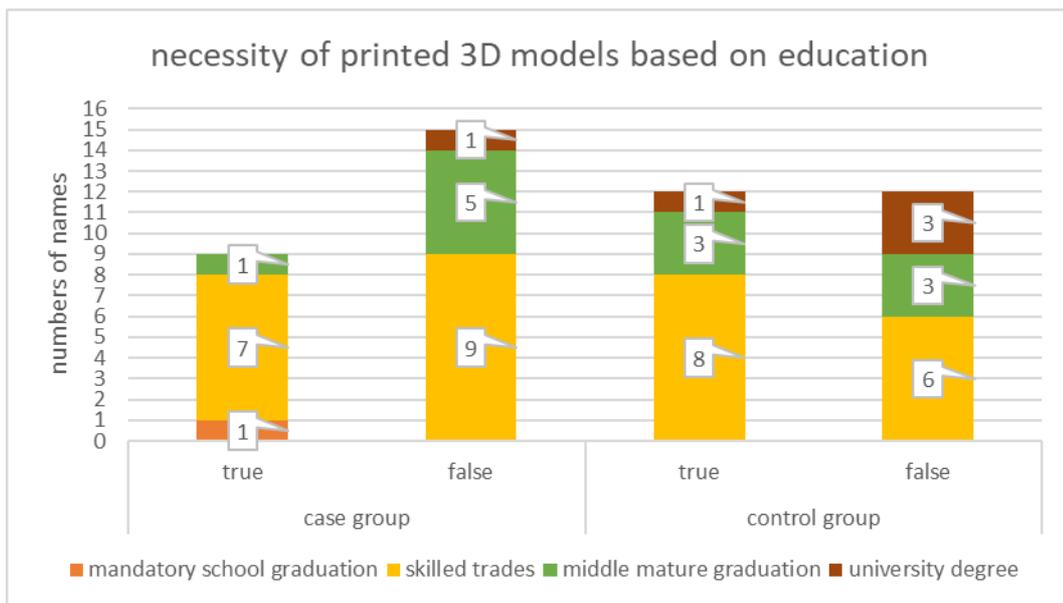


Table 28: numbers of names over necessity of printed 3D model based on education

5.6.2 Necessity of portable 3D computer model

25 participants (52,1%) would care about a portable 3D model to take home. In the case group the necessity of portable 3D models was higher than the necessity of printed 3D models. Especially female probands ($1,91 \pm 1,51$) were more interested in 3D computer models (Table 29).

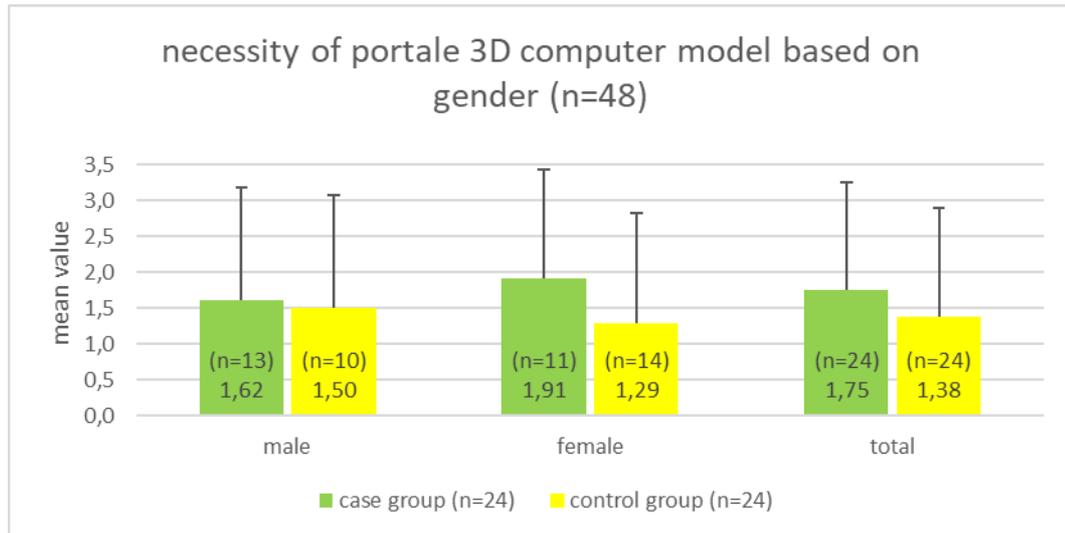


Table 29: mean value over necessity of portable 3D model based on gender

In principle, the case group was more convinced of the 3D computer model (Table 30).

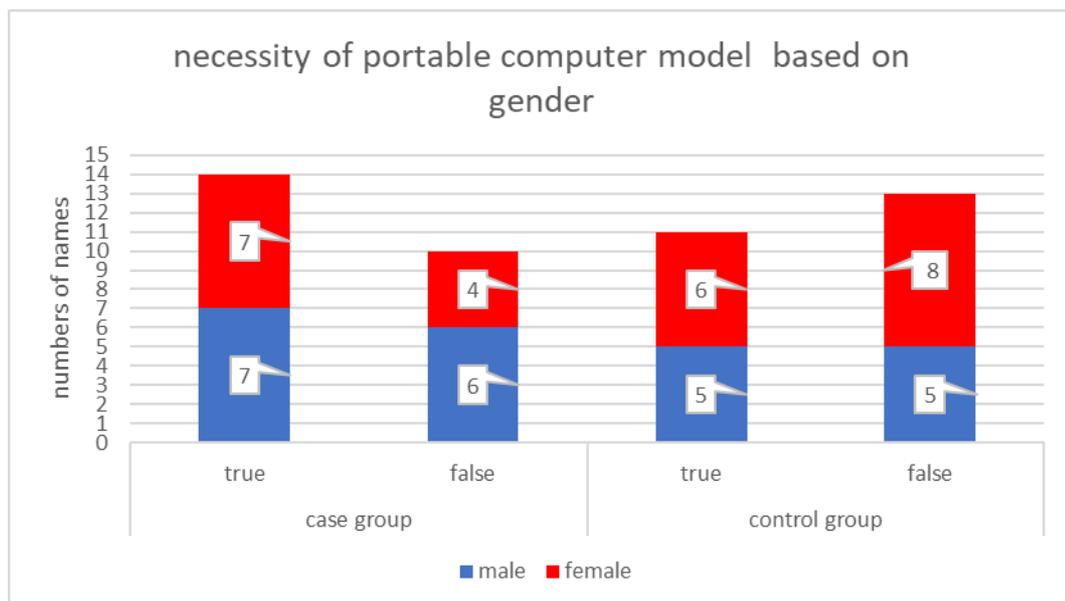


Table 30: numbers of names over necessity of portable 3D model based on gender

5 Evaluation / Results

The age group of 61 year olds and older see the greatest need in 3D computer models. In the case group, the age category of 18-30 year olds had a very high approval rate (5), while the same age group in the control group shows a great deal of disapproval (4). (Table 31).

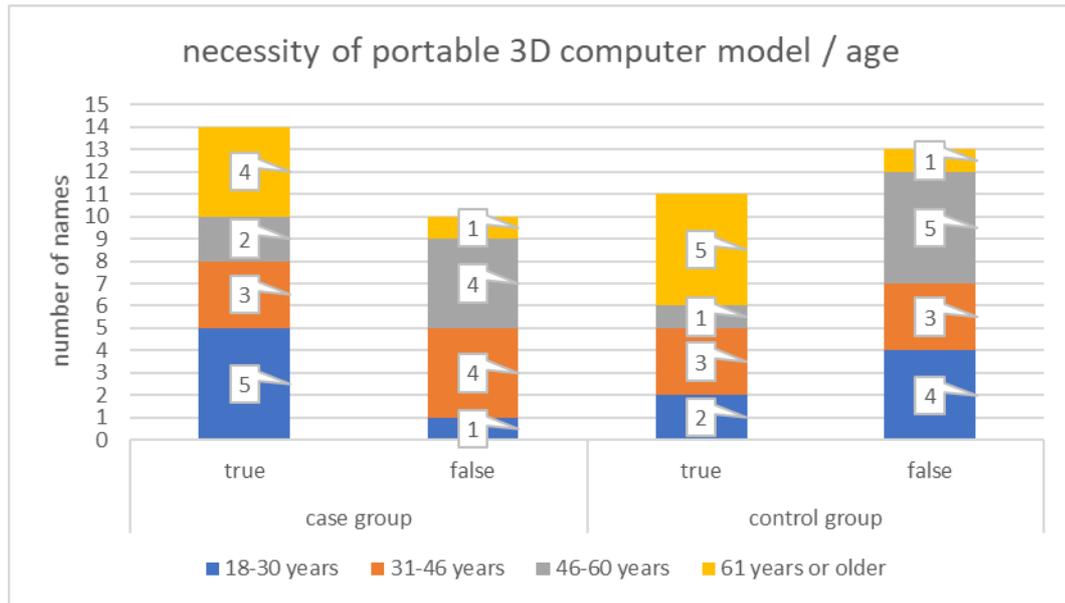


Table 31: numbers of names over necessity of portable 3D model based on age

The number of rejections increased with higher education in the control group. In the category of skilled trades, the numbers of approval to the necessity of 3D computer models were higher than the disapprovals (Table 32).

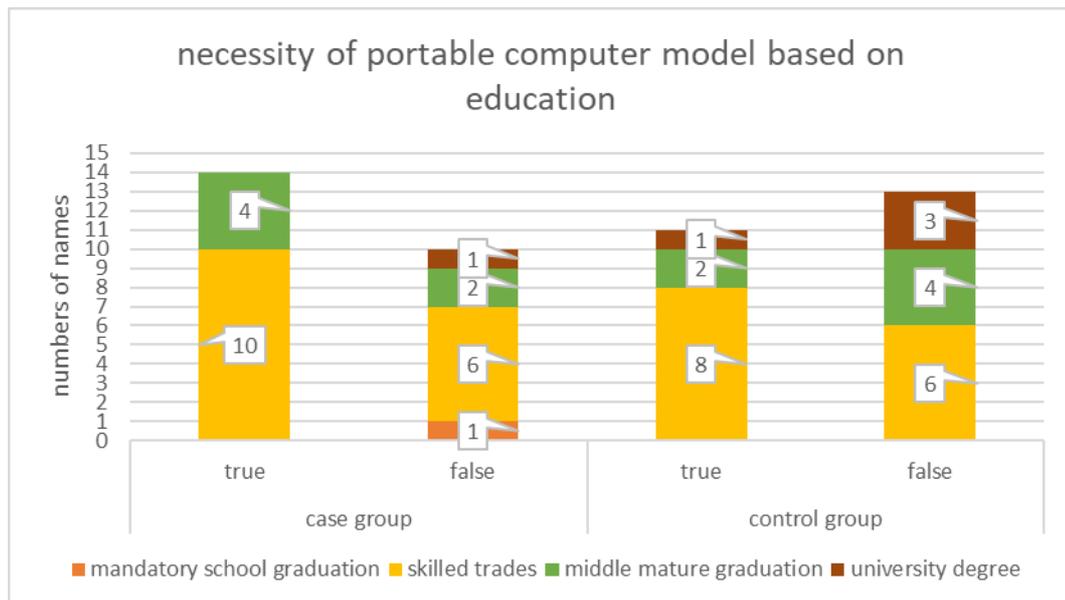


Table 32: numbers of names over necessity of portable 3D model based on education

5.7 Evaluation of an additional question

In order to prevent distortion, the question was presented exclusively to the participants of the case group.

All female probands were of the opinion, that a 3D model improves the patient information (Table 33). 21 probands (87,5%) were of the opinion that a 3D model has an advantage in patient information. 12,5% (3 participants) were rather of this opinion.

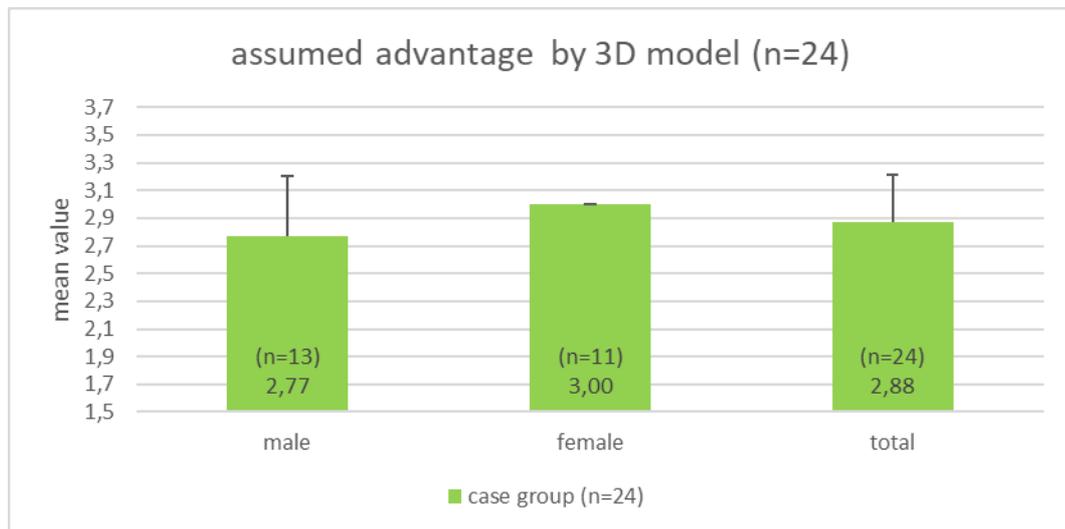


Table 33: numbers of names over assumed advantage by 3D model based on gender

The biggest advantage was seen by the participants in the age category of 61 years and older (3,0) (Table 34).

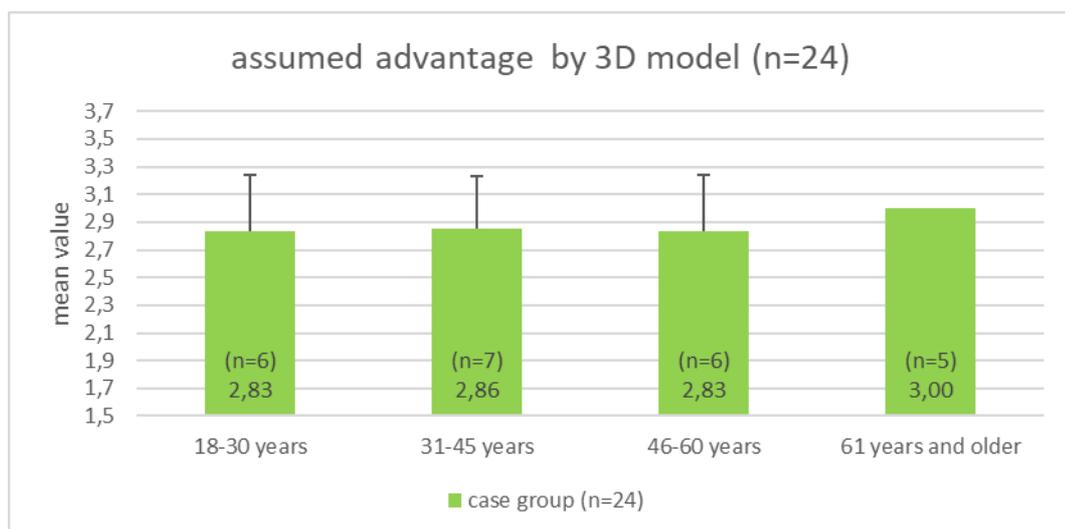


Table 34: numbers of names over assumed advantage by 3D model based on age

5 Evaluation / Results

Looking at the education, the biggest advantage was expected by the group of mandatory school and middle mature graduation. The less expected advantage was seen by the probands with university degree (Table 35).

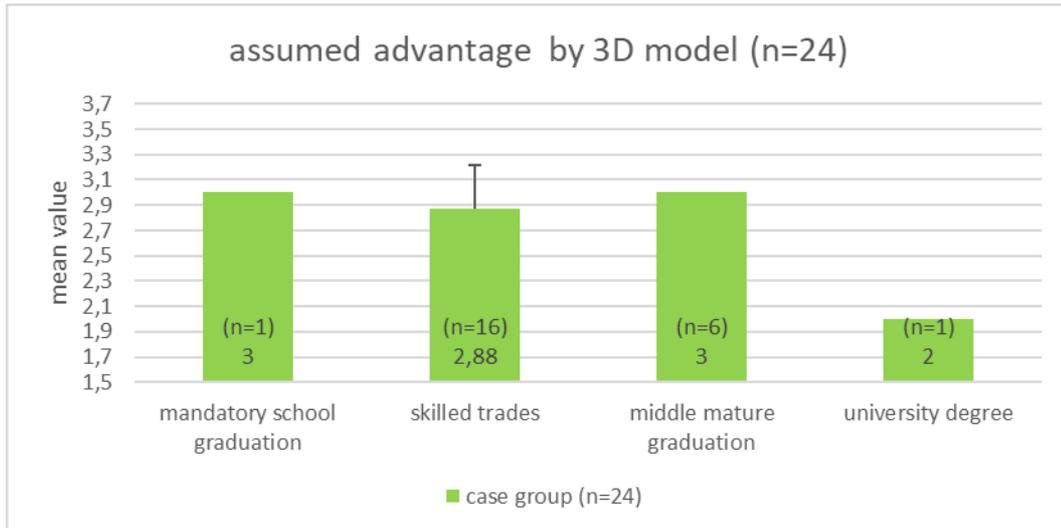


Table 35: numbers of names over assumed advantage by 3D model based on education

6 Discussion

First, it must be mentioned, that the probands, regardless of the allocated group (case or control group) delivered very positive values in general. The comprehensibility (2,83/2,84), the completeness (2,82/2,69), the recall (2,59/2,56) and the satisfaction (2,80/2,79) were similar. When comparing the results between the case and the control group, a slightly better impression of the 3D group can be seen. Looking closer, women between 31-60 years old were most convinced by the introduction of the 3D model in the patient information.

In principle, the following trend can be detected:

- In general, the probands of the 3D group in the **age group** between **46-60 years** were most exciting (2,83 ± 0,51). In my opinion, this result also points to a stronger desire in this age group for a 3D model. Statistically it can be seen that in the age group between 46 – 60 years a maximum value (2.75 ± 0,85) was achieved in the topic recall (case group). This age group also achieved the best scores in comprehensibility, but only in the group with conventional patient information (2,97 ± 0,18). In term of satisfaction, the probands between 46 -60 years were basically most convinced (case and control group 2,88). This age group is more or less in their midlife, and has already gained experience with surgery and patient information. Probably, this age group can estimate a need best.
- The worst global results reached the probands of the case group in the **age group** between **18-30 year olds** (2,69 ± 0,76). This age group perceived the conventional patient information less comprehensible (2,67 ± 0,84) and the 3D-patient information less complete (2,58 ± 0,93). The recall for case and control group was best in this age group (mean value over both group). Maybe this age group had the least experience with patient information and could not put himself/herself into the position of this situation.
- Globally seen, women were more enthusiastic than men. The **female probands** of the 3D-group presented the best results (2,80 ± 0,66). This could mean, that women are more interested in 3D models than men. Women (2,84 ± 0,42) also rated patient information with 3D model as more understandable than men (2,83 ± 0,42), although, men without the 3D model (2,88 ± 0,39), found the explanation most comprehensible. In term of completeness, women had the best results in both groups. In the topic of gaining knowledge, the female probands (2,52) must give in to the men.

Looking at the satisfaction results, female probands from the case group were most satisfied. (2,93 ±0,25).

- Considering the results based on education, it is recognized, that values of 3D group decreased with an increasing level of education. In return, the values of the control group increased with increasing education. This built the hypothesis that the **lower the education**, the more understandable the 3D-patient information is perceived and vice versa the higher the education, the less needs are seen in the 3D-patient information.
- The **recall** was bad for both groups. The age group with the best results in recall were the 18-30-year olds. In the age group of the 46-60-year olds the informed consent discussion based on 3D computer model (2,75 ± 0,85) was superior to the patient information based on legal regulations (2,13 ± 1,39). Furthermore, this age group was the only group where knowledge gain is higher in the case group than in the control group.
- The 3D patient information was perceived to be more **complete**. Probands with higher education had this impression too.
- The majority saw no need in creating **3d printed models** to take home. That gives the impression, that people who saw the 3D computer model basically said no to a printed 3D model. Especially, the age group between 18 and 30 year olds.
- A slim majority appreciates the creation of **portable 3D computer models**. Probands from the case group saw the biggest advantage and also female probands from the control group saw the fewest advantage. It is impressive, that those who did not see a 3D computer model were mostly against a portable 3D computer model. An assessment of something unknown and unseen could be a limitation. The probands who had seen the 3D computer model mostly want it too.
- All female probands over the age of 61 years see an expected benefit in the introduction of 3D models in patient information.

The results of the memory were quite surprising. The probands were in no stress situation. Nevertheless, the results were astonishing. The age category of 46-60 year olds, with a value of 2,13 (control group), scaled worst. On the other hand, the number of screws was wrong by about 45% of the female probands from the case group. Here, it could be possible, that the probands mixed up the number of bars (2 pcs) with the correct number of screws (4 pcs).

In the open question: “**what I wanted to say**”, the following answers were given:

- Insgesamt eine sehr gute Aufklärung; auch Nachfragen div. Eventualitäten wurden zufriedenstellend beantwortet;
- Angenehmes Gespräch – Beruhigend! War sehr gut!
- **Aufklärung mit 3D Modell – finde ich ganz toll!**
- Im Aufklärungsbogen sind die Darstellungen von verschiedenen Ansichten – verwirrend?
- Gibt es Möglichkeiten Übelkeit und Erbrechen nach Narkosen auszuschalten?
- **Eine gute Idee – ich hoffe es gibt’s bald wirklich**
- Keine Info was nach der OP passiert! Dauer der OP?
- Arzt war professionell und auf das wesentliche konzentriert; ging auf die Fragen der Patienten ein.
- **3D für Laien sehr verständlich**
- Sehr gut vorbereitete Studie, Arzt sehr kompetent

With this study, the elevation of Lemaire can be partially confirmed. Lemaire summarised in his paper, that age and education have an influence on the comprehensibility and recall [55]. With higher education, the comprehensibility improves in the conventional patient information. This is a noticeable trend in recall, as well. Probands with a higher education have a higher recall, especially in 3D patient information. A trend in comprehensibility and recall based on age is not apparent.

7 Limitation

Since the study presents a simulated situation with probands, different results in a survey with indeed injured patients, particularly the recall, were very likely. All of the probands were free from stress, which represents not a real situation.

The participants were not selected by the level of education. That's the reason why only one participant had only a mandatory school graduation. For a further study, the numbers of participants should be higher and randomized by education.

If informed by the same physician, a difference in transfer of information could be largely avoided. But it results in a global bias, if contents are not completely passed on or understood. Furthermore, some of the participant saw the main focus on the evaluation of the patient information discussion.

A 3D computer model is not suitable for every learning type. The probands, who must touch to learn (kinaesthetic/motoric type) need a printed 3D model [25], which is not (nationwide cheap) available in most Austrian hospitals. The production of a printed 3D model is time intense. Thus, it is not suitable for acute situations [9].

The data base for medical 3D models basically provides a CT or MRI exam. Since CT scanners are very widespread, it can be assumed that CT scans very often represent the base for 3D models. If a CT scan is only performed to create the 3D model for patient information, the physician must justify a high dose of radiation to the patient.

For a further trial, to evaluate the following hypotheses, another study design is indicated. Most likely the design should consist of three groups. One group without 3D computer model, one within the 3D computer model and one group with patient information without 3D computer model first and within 3D computer model later on.

8 Conclusion

To the author's knowledge, this is the first trial to assess the effect of visual intervention in the context of doctor-patient communication in the treatment of bone fracture.

"Doctors mostly work with two-dimensional x-ray or computed tomography images. This requires excellent visualization skills from the surgeon." [56], [57] Patients and physicians, as well, can be supported with a 3D computer model.

A study by Stephens et al. declares, that the motivation to participate in the treatment process is increased by implementation of 3D models or other visualization media in the patient-doctor-discussions [8]. As well, studies confirmed a reduction of blood loss, fluoroscopy time, complication rate [56] and surgical time [57] by the use of a printed 3D model. A printed 3D model could be the next step after creating a 3D computer model.

After completing this work, the following hypotheses can be established:

- People between 46-60 years old are most interested and the people aged between 18-30 years are less interested in patient information.
- **The lower the level of education, the better 3D models can support the informed consent discussion vice versa the higher the level of education, the less are the patients convinced from patient information based on 3D computer models.**
- **The higher the level of education, the less benefit will be seen in the introduction of 3D computer models in patient information respectively the more conventional patient information will be sufficient.**

In conclusion, this work, and the need for additional media in patient information, is supported by a study of Hermann et al. The author also recognized the need of additional media to support the doctor-patient-conversation, but not as a replacement for the face-to-face interview [46].

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A. Einverständniserklärung mit ProbandInnenaufklärung/Declaration

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences



ProbandInneninformation und Einwilligungserklärung zur Teilnahme an der Pilotstudie

*„Informed content based on 3 D data visualisation” –
“PatientInnenaufklärung unterstützt durch 3D Datendarstellung!”*

Sehr geehrte(r) ProbandInnen!

Ich lade Sie ein an der oben genannten Pilotstudie im Rahmen meiner Master Thesis teilzunehmen.

Unverzichtbare Voraussetzung für die Durchführung einer Studie ist jedoch, dass Sie Ihr Einverständnis zur Teilnahme schriftlich erklären. Bitte lesen Sie den folgenden Text als Ergänzung sorgfältig durch.

a) Allgemeine Informationen zur Studie

Die Studie beschäftigt sich mit PatientInnenaufklärung im Zusammenhang mit 3-dimensionaler Darstellung von medizinischen Bilddaten (CT/MRT Bilder).

b) Ziel der Studie

Ziel der Studie ist, durch Befragung von ProbandInnen eine Abschätzung der Notwendigkeit von 3D visualisierten medizinischen Bilddaten (CT/MRT) für PatientInnenaufklärung treffen zu können.

c) Auswahl der StudienteilnehmerInnen

Ausgeschlossen an der Teilnahme der Studie sind ProbandInnen mit eingeschränkten Sehvermögen. Weiters müssen ProbandInnen kognitiv in der Lage sein, den Ausführungen des Arztes zu folgen. Die Kenntnis der deutschen Sprache ist essenziell. Minderjährige sind von der Teilnahme ausgeschlossen.

d) Freiwilligkeit der Teilnahme

Die Teilnahme an dieser Studie ist freiwillig. Wenn Sie auf die Teilnahme an dieser Studie verzichten, haben Sie keine Nachteile zu erwarten. Das gleiche gilt, wenn Sie Ihre gegebene Einwilligung zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt widerrufen. Diese Möglichkeit haben Sie jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen. Die bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt erhobenen Daten dürfen für die Studie verwendet werden.

e) Studienablauf

- Alle ProbandInnen erhalten ca. 15 min. vor dem Aufklärungsgespräch den Aufklärungsbogen mit Informationen.
- Im folgenden Gespräch wird Ihnen ein Facharzt für Unfallchirurgie und Sporttraumatologie über eine fiktive (simulierte) Verletzung und deren Therapie aufklären.
- Nach einer kurzen (ca. 10 min.) Pause evaluieren Sie mit Hilfe eines Fragebogens die PatientInnenaufklärung.

f) Nutzen

Generell sind weder ein unmittelbarer Nutzen noch Nachteile oder Gefahren für die ProbandInnen zu erwarten.

g) Risiken und Unannehmlichkeiten

Der Fragebogen und die PatientInnenaufklärung birgt kein signifikantes Risiko. Im unwahrscheinlichen Fall einer Notfallsituation werden Sie vom anwesenden Notarzt versorgt

h) Vertraulichkeit der Daten

In der Studie werden persönliche Daten von Ihnen erfasst. Die Weitergabe der Daten im In- und Ausland erfolgt ausschließlich zu statistischen Zwecken in verschlüsselter (nur „indirekt personenbezogener“) oder nicht personenbezogener („anonymisierter“) Form, das heißt, Sie werden nicht namentlich genannt. Wenn Sie Ihre Einwilligung zurückziehen endet damit Ihre Teilnahme vorzeitig.

i) Vergütung / Entschädigung für die Teilnahme an der Studie

Durch Ihre Teilnahme an dieser Studie entstehen für Sie keine Kosten. Sie erhalten im Gegenzug auch keine Entschädigung oder Vergütung Ihrer Aufwände.

j) Abbruch

Sie können jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen aus der Studie ausscheiden.

k) Kontaktperson:

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Bitte unterschreiben Sie die Einwilligungserklärung nur

- wenn Sie Art und Ablauf der Pilotstudie vollständig verstanden haben,
- wenn Sie bereit sind, der Teilnahme zuzustimmen.

Die zuständige Ethikkommission stellte fest, dass kein Ethikantrag notwendig ist.

Einwilligungserklärung

Ich (Name, Adresse, Geb. Datum *in Druckbuchstaben*)

.....
stimme ausdrücklich zu, dass meine personenbezogenen Daten, in Form von **Fragebogenerhebung** im Rahmen der Master Thesis - Pilotstudie „Informed content based on 3 d data visualisation“ oder zu deutsch „**Simulierte PatientInnenaufklärung durch 3 D Datendarstellung**“ verarbeitet werden.

In wissenschaftlichen Veröffentlichungen werden **keine personenbezogenen Daten** bekannt gegeben, um gegenüber Dritten sicherzustellen, dass es nicht zu einer Identifizierung der Person führen kann.

Es gelten die nationalen und internationalen **datenschutzrechtlichen Bestimmungen**. Nach Beendigung der Studie, werden die Daten („Rohdaten“) zum Nachweis der Richtigkeit der Forschungsergebnisse 10 Jahre aufbewahrt und danach einer Löschung zugeführt.

Ich behalte mir das Recht vor, meine freiwillige Mitwirkung jederzeit zu beenden, ohne dass mir daraus Nachteile entstehen. Ein Widerruf kann formfrei jederzeit bei der Kontaktperson der Studie eingebracht werden.

Sollte ich meine Teilnahme an dieser Studie widerrufen, so willige ich ein, dass die bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt erhobenen Daten weiterhin verwendet werden dürfen, soweit dies erforderlich ist, um sicherzustellen, dass meine schutzwürdigen Interessen nicht beeinträchtigt werden.

Ich stimme zu, dass Bild- und Videomaterial im Rahmen des Projekts von mir angefertigt werden dürfen, und im Rahmen des Projekts sowie für Öffentlichkeitsarbeit verwendet werden.

Weiters stimme ich zu, dass meine Daten für weitere Forschungsprojekte („Sekundärforschung“) von der Fachhochschule St. Pölten GmbH als auch von FH St. Pölten GmbH verwendet werden dürfen.

.....
(Datum und Unterschrift des/der Teilnehmenden)

B. Fragebogen Fallgruppe/Questionnaire

St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences



Fragebogen zum Thema PatientInnenaufklärung

Liebe ProbandInnen,

ich freue mich, dass Sie an der Fragebogenerhebung in Rahmen meiner Masterthesis „Simulierte **PatientInnenaufklärung unterstützt durch 3D Datendarstellung**“ oder „Informed consent based on 3D data visualisation“ teilnehmen.

Wenn ich mich kurz vorstellen darf, ich heiße Bernhard Ruhrhofer und bin hauptberuflich im Universitätsklinikum St. Pölten als Radiologietechnologe beschäftigt. Im Rahmen meines Masterstudiums „Digital Healthcare“ entschied ich mich für eine intensive Auseinandersetzung mit den Themen „3D Datendarstellung“ und „PatientInnenaufklärung“.

Durch das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens helfen Sie mir, die PatientInnenaufklärung weiterzuentwickeln und somit die Zufriedenheit der PatientInnen zu steigern.

Folgenden Hinweise noch zum Fragebogen:

- Um alle Fragen zu beantworten benötigen Sie nicht länger als 15 min.
- Bitte geben Sie sich nach den anstrengenden Minuten des Aufklärungsgesprächs eine kurze Pause! Starten Sie erst mit dem Ausfüllen des Fragebogens nach einer Unterbrechung von min. 10 Minuten.
- Nehmen Sie sich genug Zeit und Ruhe um alle Fragen genau durchzulesen und gewissenhaft zu beantworten.
- Bitte füllen Sie alle Fragen aus!
- Bei jeder Frage ist nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit vorgesehen.
- Die erhobenen Daten werden gemäß den aktuellen datenschutzrechtlichen Bestimmungen behandelt. Die Daten werden nicht an Dritte weitergegeben. Sie fließen ausschließlich anonymisiert in die Studie ein und können nicht auf Personen zurückgeführt werden.

Seite 1 von 5

Fachhochschule St. Pölten GmbH, Matthias Corvinus-Straße 15, 3100 St. Pölten, T: +43 (2742) 313 228, F: +43 (2742) 313 228-339, E: csc@fhstp.ac.at, I: www.fhstp.ac.at

1. Einleitende Frage (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)

Welche „Hilfsmittel“/Medien wurden zur Unterstützung des Aufklärungsgesprächs eingesetzt?

<input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aufklärungsbogen mit ggf. handgezeichneten Skizzen 	<input type="checkbox"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 D Darstellung der CT/MRT Bilder am Bildschirm unterstützt durch • Aufklärungsbogen mit ggf. handgezeichneten Skizzen 
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*) „Abdruck mit freundlicher Genehmigung des perimed® Fachbuchverlages Dr. med. Straube GmbH, Fürth. Nachdruck – auch auszugsweise – und fotokopieren verboten.“

2. Fragen zur Verständlichkeit (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)

				
Empfanden Sie die PatientInnenaufklärung (Gespräch inkl. unterstützende Hilfsmittel und Medien) als verständlich?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Empfanden Sie den Einsatz der „Hilfsmittel“/Medien im Rahmen der PatientInnenaufklärung verständlich?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fühlen Sie sich durch den „Hilfsmittel“/Medieneinsatz im Rahmen der PatientInnenaufklärung verwirrt?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wurden im Rahmen der PatientInnenaufklärung zu viele „Hilfsmittel“/Medien eingesetzt?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Denken Sie, dass ein Aufklärungsgespräch ohne Unterstützung von „Hilfsmittel“/Medien gleich verständlich wäre?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Fragen zur Vollständigkeit (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)				
Fühlen Sie sich vollständig informiert?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ich hätte mir noch zusätzliche Informationen erwartet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sind zwischenzeitlich noch Fragen aufgetaucht?	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Empfanden Sie die PatientInnenaufklärung umfassend?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Fragen zum Wissensgewinn (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)				
Welcher Wirbelkörper ist laut PatientInnenaufklärung verletzt?	<input type="checkbox"/> Lenden- wirbel- körper #1	<input type="checkbox"/> Hals- wirbel- körper #2	<input type="checkbox"/> Brust- wirbel- körper #12	<input type="checkbox"/> Sakral- wirbel- körper #1
Wieviele Schrauben würden bei einer Operation in die Wirbelsäule eingebracht werden?	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Schrauben	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Schrauben	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Schrauben	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Schraube
Wo wird der Hautschnitt bei der geplanten Operation gemacht?	<input type="checkbox"/> am Rücken	<input type="checkbox"/> linken Flanke	<input type="checkbox"/> rechten Flanke	<input type="checkbox"/> am Bauch
Was könnte eine mögliche Komplikation bei der Operation sein? (nur eine Antwort möglich)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mittelohr- entzündung	<input type="checkbox"/> Haarausfall	<input type="checkbox"/> Verletzung des Rücken- markes	<input type="checkbox"/> Verletzung der Bauch- speichel- drüse

5. Fragen zur Zufriedenheit (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)				
				
Sind Sie mit der PatientInnenaufklärung (Gespräch inkl. unterstützende „Hilfsmittel“/Medien) zufrieden?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sind Sie mit dem Einsatz der „Hilfsmittel“-/Medien im Rahmen der PatientInnenaufklärung zufrieden?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wie bewerten Sie folgende Aussage: „Ein ausschließliches Aufklärungsgespräch reicht aus, jeglicher Einsatz von „Hilfsmittel“/ Medien ist überflüssig.“	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hat der Einsatz der „Hilfsmittel“/Medien zu einer Erhöhung des Sicherheitsgefühls beigetragen?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Fragen Sonstiges (bitte nur eine Antwortmöglichkeit ankreuzen)				
				
Wäre für Sie ein gedrucktes 3D Modell der Verletzung zum Mitnehmen und Herzeigen im Bekannten- und Familienkreis wichtig?	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Wäre für Sie ein 3D Modell der Verletzung auf einer CD zum Mitnehmen und Herzeigen im Bekannten und Familienkreis wichtig?	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Zusatzfrage				
				
Vermuten Sie einen Vorteil in der PatientInnenaufklärung durch den Einsatz von 3D dargestellte CT/MRT Bildern?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Persönliches Feedback
Dinge die noch gesagt werden müssen....

9. Fragen zur Person				
Alter	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 - 45	<input type="checkbox"/> 46 - 60	<input type="checkbox"/> 61 und älter
Geschlecht	<input type="checkbox"/> weiblich		<input type="checkbox"/> männlich	
Beruf	<input type="checkbox"/> Gesundheitsberuf		<input type="checkbox"/> kein Gesundheitsberuf	
Höchste Schulbildung	<input type="checkbox"/> kein Schulabschluss		<input type="checkbox"/> Matura AHS/BHS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pflichtschulabschluss		<input type="checkbox"/> Fachhochschul/Uniabschluss	
	<input type="checkbox"/> berufsbildende mittlere Schule oder abgeschlossener Lehrberuf		<input type="checkbox"/> sonst _____	

Vielen Dank für das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens!

Seite 5 von 5

C. Aufklärungsbogen/Informed consent form/Declaration of consent

Klinikeindruck/Stempel

Thieme Compliance ChN 4a
 proCompliance
 Stabilisierende Operationen bei Fehlstellung,
 Entzündung und Tumoren
 (Brust- und Lendenwirbelsäule)

Patientendaten/Aufkleber

Patientenname _____

Patienten ID _____

Geburtsdatum _____

Adresse _____

Station _____

Folgende Veränderung soll behandelt werden:

- Wirbelbruch/-verletzung
- Wirbelsäulenfehlstellung nach Unfall, Infektion, Voroperation o.Ä.
- Infektion der Wirbelsäule
- Tumorerkrankung der Wirbelsäule

Die Operation ist für den _____ geplant.
Datum

Sehr geehrte(r)

die Untersuchung ergab, dass Ihre Wirbelsäule aufgrund einer oder mehrerer der oben genannten Veränderungen operativ behandelt werden sollte. Dieser Aufklärungsbogen dient Ihrer Information. Bitte lesen Sie ihn vor dem Aufklärungsgespräch aufmerksam durch und füllen Sie den Fragebogen gewissenhaft aus.

bel müssen fest miteinander verbunden werden, damit sich die Schmerzen bessern und die Schutzfunktion der Wirbelsäule wiederhergestellt wird.

Die instabile Wirbelsäule

Die Wirbelsäule ermöglicht die Beweglichkeit des Rumpfes und den aufrechten Gang. Sie schützt Rückenmark und Nervenfasern vor Verletzung und Überdehnung (Abb. 1). Das Rückenmark liegt im Wirbelkanal, der vorn von den Wirbelkörpern und seitlich von den Wirbelbögen begrenzt wird, die sich nach hinten zum Dornfortsatz verbinden (Abb. 2). Die Wirbel sind über Bandscheiben (vorne) und Gelenke (hinten) beweglich miteinander verbunden. Zusätzlich sichern Bänder diese Wirbelverbindung.

Durch Unfälle, Entzündungen und Geschwülste können die Wirbel geschädigt und deren Verbindungen geschwächt werden. Besonders bei Unfällen können so große Kräfte auf die Wirbelsäule einwirken, dass die Verbindungen überdehnt werden oder sogar zerreißen. Auch manche Operationen am Rückenmark oder an den Nerven können durch die operative Eröffnung des Wirbelkanals zu einem Stabilitätsverlust führen.

Die instabile Wirbelsäule kann zu einer Schädigung des Rückenmarkes und der Nerven führen, darüber hinaus können aufgrund der Gelenkfehlbelastung erhebliche Beschwerden auftreten.

Bei starken Schmerzen und/oder neurologischen Störungen werden die Wirbel operativ miteinander verbunden, also versteift. Die Wir-

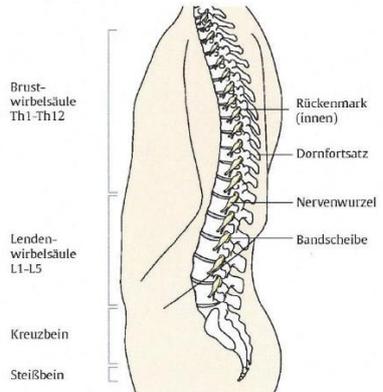


Abb. 1: Die Wirbelsäule von der Seite (Halswirbelsäule angedeutet)

Dokumentierte Patientenaufklärung - Herausgeber: proCompliance in Thieme Compliance GmbH - Fachbereichschr.: Prof. Dr. med. S. Rosahl - Autor: Dr. med. K. J. Schmick - Juristische Beratung: Dr. jur. A. Schwedtfeger - Wiss. Illustrationen: Alle Rechte bei Thieme Compliance GmbH, Erlangen - © 2015 by Thieme Compliance GmbH, 91058 Erlangen - Nachdruck - auch auszugsweise - und Fotokopieren verboten. Bestell-Adresse: Thieme Compliance GmbH, Am Weichselgarten 30a, 91058 Erlangen, Tel. +49 (0)9131 93406-40, Bestell-Fax 93406-70 - www.thieme-compliance.de

Welche Behandlungsmöglichkeiten gibt es?

Es besteht die Möglichkeit einer konservativen Therapie durch Bettruhe, Korsett, Spritzen, Injektionen an die Wirbelgelenke, Infusionen, Medikamente oder durch physikalische Therapie (Kräftigungsgymnastik, Wärmeanwendungen etc.) über einen längeren Zeitraum.

Bei relativen Instabilitäten (z.B. durch Unfälle, Entzündungen oder Tumore) kann eine kombinierte Behandlung mit Korsett, Bestrahlung, Chemotherapie, Vertebroplastie oder Kyphoplastie (Zementauffüllung eines Wirbelkörpers) erwogen werden.

Nach dem bisherigen Krankheitsverlauf und aufgrund Ihrer Befunde hat Ihr Arzt Ihnen jedoch eine stabilisierende Operation empfohlen.

Wie wird operiert?

Je nach Verschleiß bzw. Instabilität Ihrer Wirbelsäule kann die Korrekturbehandlung in einer oder mehreren Teiloperationen erfolgen. Dies erfolgt grundsätzlich in Vollnarkose. Über Einzelheiten und Risiken dieses Betäubungsverfahrens klärt Sie der Anästhesist gesondert auf.

Ihr Arzt wird das oder die für Sie geeignete(n) Operationsverfahren nachfolgend ankreuzen und Ihnen dies genauer erläutern:

Der Hautschnitt

Die Lage und die Länge des Hautschnitts richten sich nach der Ausdehnung des zu stabilisierenden Wirbelsäulenbereichs, der in der Regel zu Beginn der Operation mit einer Röntgenaufnahme genau lokalisiert wird. Möglich sind auch endoskopische bzw. perkutane (Schlüsselloch-)Techniken, bei denen mehrere kurze Hautschnitte durchgeführt werden.

Hautschnitt am Rücken:

In Bauchlage wird nach einem Schnitt in der Mittellinie die Muskulatur von den Dornfortsätzen und Wirbelbögen abgelöst, so dass die Wirbelgelenke und die Querfortsätze freigelegt werden können. Bei perkutanen Eingriffen werden mehrere kleine Schnitte gesetzt. Um ggf. die Nervenfasern im Wirbelkanal oder die Nervenwurzeln im Nervenaustrittsloch zu entlasten oder Gewebe zu entfernen, müssen die Wirbelbögen und Dornfortsätze ganz oder teilweise entfernt werden (s. Abb. 2).

Am Ende der Operation wird die Wunde schichtweise verschlossen. Über kleine Schläuche wird für 1 bis 2 Tage Wundsekret abgesaugt.

Hautschnitt am Brustkorb:

In Seitenlage wird der Brustkorb eröffnet; gelegentlich kann es notwendig sein, auch das Zwerchfell einzuschneiden, um die Wirbelsäule zu erreichen. Die auf der Zugangsseite liegende Lunge wird zur Seite geschoben und die vor der Wirbelsäule

verlaufenden großen Gefäße (Körperschlagader und Hohlvene) werden geschont.

Am Ende der Operation wird das Zwerchfell wieder vernäht und der Brustkorb verschlossen. Für einige Tage wird ein Schlauch (Drainage) in den Brustkorb eingelegt, damit Wundsekret und Luft abgesaugt werden können und die Lunge sich so wieder entfalten kann.

Hautschnitt an der Flanke bzw. am Bauch:

In Rücken- oder Seitenlagerung erfolgt ein Schnitt im Bereich der Flanke oder des Mittel- bzw. Unterbauches. Nach Durchtrennung der Bauchmuskeln werden der Inhalt der Bauchhöhle und der Harnleiter zur Seite gehalten. Entscheidet sich der Operateur für die zusätzliche Eröffnung der Bauchhöhle, so wird der Darm zur Seite verlagert, um an die Wirbelsäule zu gelangen (s. Abb. 3). Selten kann es notwendig sein, den Brustkorb zu eröffnen, um an den Übergang der Brust- zur Lendenwirbelsäule zu gelangen.

Der Zugang kann auch minimalinvasiv („Schlüsselloch-Technik“) erfolgen. Dabei werden über kurze Schnitte spezielle Spreizer eingeführt und die Muskulatur und das Gewebe stumpf zur Seite gedrängt.

Die nahe der Wirbelsäule verlaufende Körperschlagader, die Hohlvene sowie der Psoas-Muskel werden beiseite geschoben, damit Wirbel und Bandscheibe gut zugänglich sind.

Am Ende der Operation werden die Muskulatur und die Bauchwand wieder vernäht. Über einen kleinen Schlauch kann für 1 bis 2 Tage Wundsekret abgesaugt werden.

Die Stabilisierungsoperation

Die stabilisierende Operation erfolgt mit Hilfe von Implantaten (Metall oder Kunststoff) und ggf. Knochen oder Knochenersatzmaterialien. Die Implantate gewährleisten eine sofortige Stabilisation. Knochenmaterial wächst erst mit der Zeit ein und führt dann zu einer dauerhaften Stabilität. Neben körpereigenem Knochen kann Fremdknochen oder künstliches Knochenersatzmaterial verwendet werden. Unter bestimmten Umständen ist es möglich und sinnvoll, die Implantate später teilweise oder ganz wieder zu entfernen.

Zur stabilisierenden Operation ist bei Ihnen vorgesehen:

Schrauben und Stäbe (Fixateur interne):

Von hinten werden Schrauben auf beiden Seiten bis in die Wirbelkörper eingedreht. Die Schrauben jeder Seite werden dann miteinander durch Längsstäbe (u. ggf. Querräger) fest verbunden und stabilisieren so die Wirbelsäule.

Wirbelkörper- und Bandscheibenersatz:

Die einzusetzenden Cages (Platzhalter) werden anstelle des zuvor herausgenommenen Wirbelkörpers (einschließlich der an-

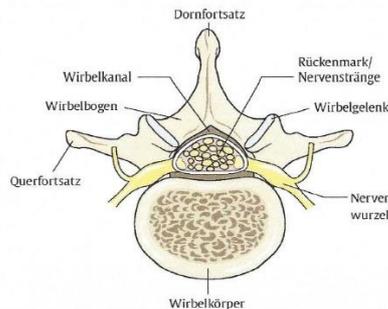


Abb. 2: Typischer Wirbel in Aufsicht (von oben)

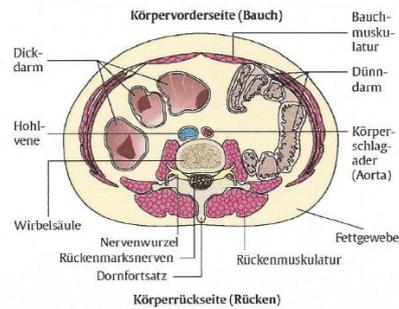


Abb. 3: Körperquerschnitt (auf Bauchnabelhöhe)

grenzenden Bandscheiben) in den so entstandenen Defekt eingebracht. Sie bestehen häufig aus Titan, Kunststoff o.a. Materialien. Zur besseren Einheilung werden sie häufig mit Knochen oder Knochenersatzmaterial gefüllt.

Platte:

Von vorne oder von der Seite wird eine Metallplatte (gelegentlich auch Stäbe) mit Schrauben an den Wirbelkörpern befestigt und so eine feste Verbindung von zwei oder mehreren Wirbeln erreicht.

Knochen:

Körpereigener Knochen

(Entnahmestelle: _____)

Dieser kann im Operationsbereich von der Wirbelsäule oder auch vom vorderen oder hinteren Beckenkamm entnommen werden. Die entstandene Knochenlücke kann vom Körper durch Knochenneubildung wieder geschlossen werden.

- Sterilisierter Fremdknochen
 Knochenersatzmaterialien
 Künstliche Knochenwachstumsfaktoren.

Reposition und Achsenkorrektur

- Bei Verschiebungen der Wirbel (Wirbelgleiten) kann es notwendig sein, den verschobenen Wirbel wieder an seine ursprüngliche Position zu bringen (Reposition).
 Bei einer Verkipfung der Wirbel nach vorn (Kyphose) oder zur Seite (Skoliose) kann es notwendig sein, diese auszugleichen (Achsenkorrektur).

Dekompression des Wirbelkanals

- Bei Verlagerung von Bandscheibengewebe, Wirbelknochen, Geschwülsten oder Eiter in den Wirbelkanal hinein kann es notwendig sein, diesen zu eröffnen, um Rückenmark und Nervenwurzeln vom Druck zu entlasten.

Ist mit Komplikationen zu rechnen?

Trotz aller Sorgfalt kann es zu – u.U. auch lebensbedrohlichen – Komplikationen kommen, die weitere Behandlungsmaßnahmen/Operationen erfordern. Die Häufigkeitsangaben sind eine allgemeine Einschätzung und sollen helfen, die Risiken untereinander zu gewichten. Sie entsprechen nicht den Definitionen für Nebenwirkungen in den Beipackzetteln von Medikamenten. Vorerkrankungen und individuelle Besonderheiten können die Häufigkeiten von Komplikationen wesentlich beeinflussen.

- Vorübergehende Taubheitsgefühle, selten auch andauernde Schmerzen und Missempfindungen infolge der operationsbedingten Durchtrennung von Hautnerven.
- Haut-/Gewebe-/Nervenschäden durch die Lagerung und eingriffsbegleitende Maßnahmen (z.B. Einspritzungen, Desinfektionen, Laser, elektrischer Strom) sind selten. Mögliche, u.U. dauerhafte Folgen: Schmerzen, Entzündungen, Absterben von Gewebe, Narben sowie Empfindungs-, Funktionsstörungen, Lähmungen (z.B. der Gliedmaßen).
- Beim Zugang von der Seite oder von vorne kann es nach der Operation zu einer Schwäche, in sehr seltenen Fällen sogar zu einer Lücke der Bauchwandmuskulatur und/oder des Zwerchfells kommen. Durch diese Lücke kann sich Darm oder Lungengewebe verlagern (sog. Bauchwand- oder Zwerchfellbruch). Dann kann eine erneute Operation zum Verschluss dieses Bruches notwendig werden.

- Beim Zugang im Bereich der Brustwirbelsäule kommt es selten zu Verletzungen der Lunge mit Luftaustritt zwischen Lungenfell und Brustwand (sog. Pneumothorax). Dies kann bei entsprechender Luftnot einen weiteren Eingriff (Einlage einer Saugdrainage) bedingen.

- Allergie/Unverträglichkeit (z.B. auf Latex, Medikamente) führt sehr selten zu einem akuten Kreislaufchock, der intensivmedizinische Maßnahmen erfordert. Äußerst selten sind schwerwiegende, u.U. bleibende Schäden (z.B. Organversagen, Hirnschädigung, Lähmungen).

- In sehr seltenen Fällen sind nach dem Eingriff vorübergehende oder bleibende Sehstörungen bis hin zur Erblindung möglich.

- Blutungen/Nachblutungen können eine operative Blutstillung und/oder Bluttransfusion erfordern. Bei einer Fremdblutübertragung ist das Infektionsrisiko (z.B. Hepatitis, AIDS) extrem selten geworden. Eine Nachuntersuchung zum Ausschluss übertragener Infektionen kann u.U. empfehlenswert sein. Ob dies der Fall ist, besprechen Sie bitte mit Ihrem Arzt, (ebenso wie die Möglichkeit einer Eigenblutübertragung).

- Verletzungen der Nerven oder des Rückenmarks können anhaltende Schmerzen, Gefühlsstörungen, Temperaturmissempfindungen, Schwächen oder Lähmung der Beine, Funktionsstörungen von Blase und Afterschließmuskel (Inkontinenz) oder sexuelle Störungen (Impotenz) zur Folge haben; eine komplette Querschnittlähmung kann in sehr seltenen Fällen eintreten.

- Durch Verletzungen der Rückenmarkshaut kann es zu Ausbuchtungen oder offenen Verbindungen zwischen Nervenwasser und Körperoberfläche bzw. einer Körperhöhle (Nervenwasserfistel) kommen. In diesen seltenen Fällen ist manchmal ein erneuter Eingriff zum Verschluss der Rückenmarkshaut erforderlich. Das Risiko ist erhöht bei Verwachsungen nach Voroperationen und bei Operationen nach Unfällen. Kommt es zum Verlust von Nervenwasser kann es zu starken Kopfschmerzen, Übelkeit, Schwindel und im Extremfall zu einer Blutung im Schädelinneren oder im Wirbelkanal kommen.

- Sehr selten treten Verletzungen der Lymphgefäße (sog. Milchbrustgang) auf. Diese können zum Austreten von Gewebeflüssigkeit (Lymphe) in den Brustkorb führen. Neben diätetischen Maßnahmen kann dann auch eine intensivmedizinische oder operative Behandlung notwendig werden.

- Eine Verschlechterung der Bewegungsfähigkeit der Beine, bis hin zu Lähmungen und Störungen der Funktion von Blase und Afterschließmuskel (Kauda-Syndrom) – ähnlich einer Querschnittlähmung – kann sich z.B. bei einer Nachblutung (Hämatom) ausbilden. Extrem selten können sexuelle Störungen wie Impotenz und Sensibilitätsstörungen im Genitalbereich auftreten. In diesen Fällen müssen unverzüglich weitere Untersuchungen die Ursache abklären. Unter Umständen wird eine erneute Operation notwendig. Diese Störungen können auch bestehen bleiben.

- Nicht immer gelingt es, die Implantate so an der Wirbelsäule zu befestigen, dass sie einen guten Halt haben. Es kann dann zu Lockerungen kommen, die jedoch selbst bei anfangs guter Positionierung der Implantate auftreten können. Selten ist dann eine Korrekturoperation erforderlich.

- Bei Überlastung kann es zu einem Bruch der Implantate kommen. Häufig ist dann eine Entfernung der Implantate notwendig. Die Implantate können auch ihre Lage verändern und müssen dann entfernt bzw. korrigiert werden. Durch die Fehllage können das Rückenmark, die Nerven oder innere Organe beschädigt werden. Liegen die Implantate sehr dicht unter der Haut, können Hautschädigungen auftreten.

- Bei jeder stabilisierenden Operation besteht die Möglichkeit, dass die gewünschte knöcherne Verbindung der Wirbel (Ver-

steifung) nicht eintritt und somit eine Pseudarthrose (sog. Scheingelenk) entsteht. Dieses Risiko ist besonders bei Rauchern erhöht. Ein Implantatversagen (Bruch oder Lockerung) erhöht ebenfalls dieses Risiko und Folgeoperationen können dann notwendig werden.

- Durch die Stabilisierung kann es zu Überlastungen der angrenzenden Knochen- und Weichteilstrukturen kommen. Diese Veränderungen treten selten auf, erfordern jedoch gelegentlich eine zusätzliche Stabilisierung.
- Bei Korrekturen der Wirbelsäulenachse (besonders nach Unfällen) kann es nach einiger Zeit wieder zu einer beginnenden Fehlstellung kommen. Eine erneute Operation kann in ausgeprägten Fällen notwendig werden.
- Körperfremdes Material wie Implantate, Fremdknochen oder Knochenersatz nimmt der Körper in manchen Fällen nicht an, sondern stößt es ab oder reagiert mit Wundheilungsstörungen. Dann sind evtl. Nachoperationen erforderlich.
- Bei der Knochenentnahme, z.B. am Beckenkamm, können stärkere Blutungen, Wundheilungsstörungen, Infektionen oder Unregelmäßigkeiten in der Knochenstruktur auftreten. In sehr seltenen Fällen kann es an der Entnahmestelle zu einem Bruch kommen, der eventuell operativ behandelt werden muss. Durch die Entnahme oder die nachfolgende Vernarbung können Hautnerven geschädigt werden, mit der Folge von Taubheitsgefühl oder Schmerzen.
- Durch die Übertragung von Fremdknochen kann es wie durch eine Blutübertragung zu Infektionen kommen. Das Risiko ist zwar sehr gering, lässt sich aber nicht mit letzter Sicherheit ausschließen.
- Bei der Verwendung von künstlichen Knochenwachstumsfaktoren kann es zu lokalen Schwellungen und Schmerzen, Überempfindlichkeiten (Allergien), Infektion und überschießendem Knochenwachstum kommen.
- Es kann zu Infektionen der Operationswunde kommen. Oberflächliche Wundheilungsstörungen heilen meistens durch lokale Wundbehandlung, wenn auch verzögert, ab. Nur selten ist eine Nachoperation notwendig. Tiefergehende Infektionen können die Bauch- und Brusthöhle, die Bandscheibe, die Rückenmarkshäute und die Wirbel betreffen. Gegebenenfalls ist eine Nachoperation mit Säuberung der Wunde und Entfernung der Implantate notwendig. Nur äußerst selten greift eine Infektion auf die Blutbahn über (Blutvergiftung, Sepsis) oder es kommt zu einer Hirnhautentzündung (Meningitis), die zu bleibenden Störungen des Nervensystems führen kann.
- Durch die operationsbedingte Belastung des Körpers kann es auch zu Infektionen der Lunge und der Harnwege (wg. Blasen-katheter) kommen. Diese Komplikationen können jedoch medikamentös meist gut zum Abklingen gebracht werden.
- Narbenwucherungen (Keloid) durch entsprechende Veranlagung oder Wundheilungsstörungen sind selten. Hautverfärbungen, Schmerzen und Bewegungseinschränkungen können die Folge sein. Ein späterer Korrektureingriff ist u.U. möglich.
- Thrombose/Embolie: Bilden sich Blutgerinnsel oder werden sie verschleppt und verschließen ein Blutgefäß, kann dies schwerwiegende Folgen haben (z.B. Lungenembolie, Schlaganfall, Herzinfarkt). Zur Vorbeugung werden oft blutverdünnende Medikamente gegeben. Sie erhöhen jedoch alle das Risiko von Blutungen. Der Wirkstoff Heparin kann aber selten auch eine lebensbedrohliche Gerinnselbildung verursachen (HIT II).

Über Ihre speziellen Risiken und die damit verbundenen möglichen Komplikationen informiert Sie Ihr Arzt im Aufklärungsgespräch näher. Bitte fragen Sie dann nach allem, was Ihnen unklar und wichtig erscheint.

Erfolgsaussichten

Die Erfolgsaussichten sind individuell sehr unterschiedlich und von vielen Faktoren, wie z.B. der bei Ihnen konkret vorliegenden Erkrankung, abhängig. Eine völlige Beschwerdefreiheit nach der Operation kann nicht garantiert werden. Ihr Arzt wird darüber gesondert mit Ihnen sprechen.

Worauf ist zu achten?

Bitte legen Sie einschlägige Unterlagen, wie z.B. Ausweise/Pässe (Allergie, Mutterschaft, Röntgen, Implantate etc.), Befunde und Bilder – soweit vorhanden – vor.

Wund- und Rückenschmerzen können nach dem Eingriff unangenehm sein, lassen sich aber gut mit Schmerzmitteln lindern.

Neu auftretende oder zunehmende Lähmungen oder Gefühlsstörungen der Beine oder im Gesäß- und/oder Afterbereich müssen Sie sofort mitteilen.

In den ersten 24 Stunden nach der Operation können Schwierigkeiten mit dem Wasserlassen auftreten. Es kann notwendig sein, durch Einmalkatheter die Blase zu entleeren. Auch unangenehme Darmlähmungen oder Stuhlverhalt können auftreten und Anlass für die Entlastung über ein Darmrohr sein.

Beim Aufstehen können Kreislaufschwierigkeiten auftreten (z.B. Schwarz-vor-Augen-werden). Sie erhalten dann ggf. Medikamente zur Kreislaufstabilisierung.

Zur Beurteilung der Lage der Implantate und der Belastungsfähigkeit der Wirbelsäule sind regelmäßige Kontrolluntersuchungen (Röntgen und/oder Computertomographie) notwendig.

Um die Implantate nach stabilisierenden Operationen nicht zu überlasten, kann es ratsam sein, dass Ihnen vorübergehend ein spezielles orthopädisches Mieder verordnet wird.

Nach jedem stabilisierenden Eingriff muss die Belastung der Wirbelsäule von der bei der Operation erreichten Stabilität abhängig gemacht werden. Bitte halten Sie sich diesbezüglich unbedingt genau an die Anweisungen Ihres Arztes!

Wichtige Fragen

Das Risiko ärztlicher Eingriffe wird von der körperlichen Verfassung und Vorschäden beeinflusst. Um Gefahrenquellen rechtzeitig erkennen und in Ihrem Fall spezielle Risiken besser abschätzen zu können, bitten wir Sie, die folgenden Fragen zu beantworten:

Alter: _____ Jahre • Größe: _____ cm • Gewicht: _____ kg

Geschlecht: _____

n = nein/j = ja

1. Werden regelmäßig oder derzeit Medikamente eingenommen (z.B. gerinnungshemmende Mittel [z.B. Marcumar®, Aspirin®, Plavix®, Xarelto®, Pradaxa®, Eliquis®, Lixiana®, Heparin], Schmerzmittel, Herz-/Kreislauf-Medikamente, Hormonpräparate, Schlaf- oder Beruhigungsmittel, Antidiabetika [v.a. metforminhaltige])? n j

Wenn ja, welche? _____

2. Besteht eine Allergie wie Heuschnupfen oder allergisches Asthma oder eine Unverträglichkeit bestimmter Substanzen (z.B. Medikamente, Latex, Desinfektionsmittel, Betäubungsmittel, Röntgenkontrastmittel, Jod, Pflaster, Pollen)? n j

Wenn ja, welche? _____

3. Besteht bei Ihnen oder in Ihrer Blutsverwandtschaft eine erhöhte Blutungsneigung wie z.B. häufig Nasen-/Zahn-

