

Periacetabular Osteotomy: An Analysis of Social Media to Determine the Most Common Questions Asked by the Periacetabular Osteotomy Population

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INTRODUCTION: Social media has become an increasingly popular resource for patients and a platform to share one’s experiences. Patients undergoing periacetabular osteotomy (PAO) may gravitate towards social media for support, guidance and understanding. The aim of this study was to investigate Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to further understand what the most common preoperative and postoperative questions patients undergoing PAO are asking.

METHODS: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were queried consecutively from February 1, 2023 to November 23, 2011. Facebook was searched for the two most populated interest groups; “Periacetabular Osteotomy (PAO)” and “Periacetabular Osteotomy Australia”. Instagram and Twitter were queried for the most popular hashtags: “#PAOWarrior”, “#PAOSurgery”, “#periacetabularosteotomy”, “#periacetabularosteotomyrecovery”, and “#paorecovery”. Patient questions were categorized according to preoperative and postoperative questions. Questions were further placed into specific themes in their respective preoperative or postoperative question types.

RESULTS SECTION: Two thousand five hundred and fifty-nine posts were collected, with 849 (33%) posts containing 966 questions. Of the 966 questions, 443 (45.9%) and 523 (54.1%) were preoperative and postoperative questions, respectively. The majority of questions were postoperative complication related (23%) and symptom management (21%). Other postoperative questions included recovery/rehabilitation (21%), and general postoperative questions (18%). The most common preoperative questions were related to PAO education (23%). Rehabilitation (19%), hip dysplasia education (17%), and surgeon selection (12%) were other preoperative questions topics included. Most questions came from Facebook posts. Of 1,054 Facebook posts, 76% were either preoperative or postoperative questions and from the perspective of the patient (87%).

DISCUSSION: The majority of patients in the PAO population sought advice on postoperative complications and symptom management. Some patients asked about education surrounding PAO surgery. Understanding the most common concerns and questions patients have can help providers educate patients and focus on more patient-relevant perioperative conversations.

SIGNIFICANCE/CLINICAL RELEVANCE: This study allows physicians and other medical personnel to understand what patients may not be asking in the clinic setting and further understand social media medical content. It gives a further understanding as to what concerns people in the PAO population may have either before or after the surgery.

Table 1.
Preoperative Question Content Summary

	n	(%)
Recovery time	35	(8)
Surgeon selection	53	(12)
Rehabilitation (including rehab supplies)	83	(19)
Perceived complications	12	(3)
Hip dysplasia education (including diagnosis)	77	(17)
PAO education	102	(23)
Surgical qualification	7	(2)
Pre-op pain	49	(11)
Insurance/payment	10	(2)
Surgery worth it?	15	(3)

Table 2.
Postoperative Question Content Summary

	n	(%)
Recovery time	30	(6)
Complication related	122	(23)
Symptom management	112	(21)
Imaging Post-Op	7	(1)
Screw Removal	45	(9)
Recovery/rehabilitation	111	(21)
General post-operative questions	96	(18)