March 2024

Clinical Pathway using Arabic Written Medical Information to Improve Incontinence Healthcare Utilization

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Recommended Citation  
Knapp, John F.; Radoiu, Codrut; Ross, Emma; Vercnocke MD, Jack; Liaw MD, Aron; and Dhar, Nivedita, "Clinical Pathway using Arabic Written Medical Information to Improve Incontinence Healthcare Utilization" (2024). Medical Student Research Symposium. 288.  
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Clinical Pathway using Arabic Written Medical Information to Improve Incontinence Healthcare Utilization

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Introduction and Objective: Metro Detroit holds ~13% of all Arabic speakers in the U.S.A. and 91% of those in Michigan. Evidence supports that patients who do not speak the local language have poor access to healthcare. This study describes our preliminary experience of managing Arabic only speaking women with bothersome stress urinary incontinence (SUI) from May 2022 to October 2023. These women routinely request same-sex interpreters, which is not always possible, leading to a lack of detailed translation. A potential solution is to use Arabic written medical information (AWMI). The purpose of the study was to retrospectively look at the number of Arabic only speaking female patients scheduling Bulkamid procedure for their SUI nine months prior to AWMI being available and nine months after AWMI becoming available.

Methods: From May 2022 to January 2023, all Arabic only speaking/reading female patients with SUI were provided the Bulkamid brochure in English. From February 2023 to October 2023, all Arabic only speaking/reading female patients with SUI were provided Bulkamid AWMI to read. The number of Bulkamid cases scheduled nine months before and after the AWMI brochure became available was evaluated.

Results: From May 2022 to January 2023, 40 of 70 (57%) patients who received the brochure in English scheduled a Bulkamid procedure. From February 2023 to October 2023, 60 of 62 (92%) patients receiving AWMI on Bulkamid scheduled the procedure.

Conclusions: Our study suggests that AWMI on Bulkamid procedures may have a positive impact on healthcare accessibility by increasing access to medical information.