A Systematic Review of Patient Satisfaction and Mohs Micrographic Surgery: Techniques for Improvement

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Introduction

Mohs Micrographic Surgery (MMS), one of the most intricate procedural styles in the field of Dermatology, aims to rid patients of cancerous conditions while maximizing the conservation of healthy tissue. The precise layer-by-layer approach truly augments both cosmetic results and overall success rates. The procedure relies not only upon surgical skill but also coordination of the interprofessional team to ensure the best outcomes for patients. Given the sensitive nature of MMS procedural sites, optimizing the well-being of patients pre-, peri-, and postoperatively is of the utmost importance. Alleviating patient fears as well as fostering an increased understanding of the procedure itself lie at the heart of overall patient satisfaction. Techniques to improve peace of mind, such as preprocedural educational materials, intraoperative music, and postprocedural enhanced wound care, have been explored to date. Though further research is certainly warranted, synthesizing existing literature will allow for the most comprehensive plan of action for future MMS patients. This systematic review seeks to uncover and analyze the most well-received methods in patient satisfaction utilized in MMS.

Methods

A literature review was conducted through PubMed and included a keyword search using: "Mohs" and "patient satisfaction" as qualifiers. Studies including standardized, objective patient satisfaction tools were of particular interest. The review included a total of 23 studies chosen from pre-designated inclusion and exclusion criteria. These points of distinction are identified below.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Original research articles
- Articles assessing patient satisfaction in Mohs micrographic surgery
- Articles reporting techniques for improvement in MMS
- Studies published in English

Exclusion Criteria:

- Review articles
- Editorials
- Conference abstracts
- Case reports
- Studies not focused on patient satisfaction or without clear interventions for improvement
- Studies with insufficient data for extraction and analysis

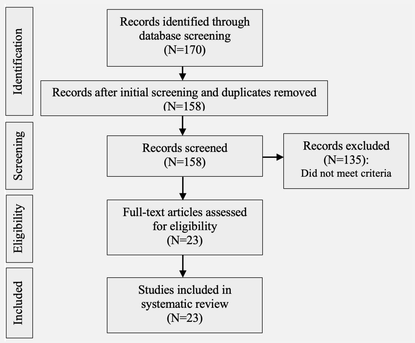

Figure 1. Systematic review flowchart

A standardized data extraction form was used to collect relevant information from the included studies, such as study characteristics, patient demographics, and satisfaction outcome measures. A narrative analysis was then conducted to determine the most effective techniques to improve patient satisfaction.

Outcomes

The figures below represent an overview of the most popular pre-, peri-, and postoperative MMS techniques for optimal patient satisfaction.

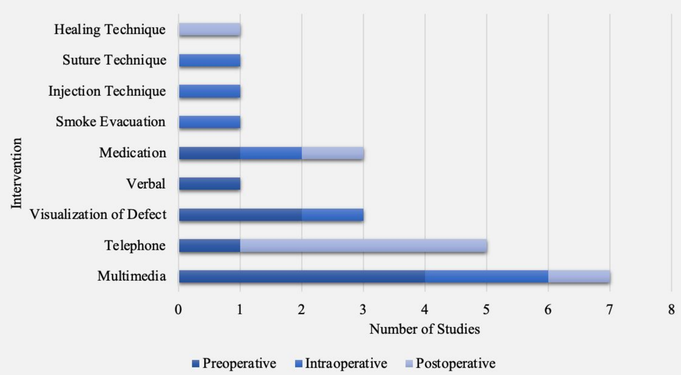

Figure 2. Graphical depiction of interventions based on setting.

Preoperative

Intraoperative

Postoperative

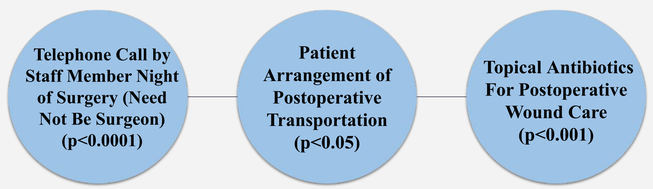

Figure 3. Statistically significant ($p<0.05$) preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative interventions for patient satisfaction

Discussion and Conclusion

Key findings of the systematic review regarding MMS techniques for improvement are as follows:

- Multimedia videos were well-received by new MMS patients, with existing patients showing a preference for the narrative format.
- A 10-minute VR experience post-first Mohs layer removal significantly reduced feelings of fear and nervousness.
- Personalized music during MMS enhanced patients' perceptions.
- Postoperative interventions, such as specific wound dressings, showed better healing outcomes, while others like antibiotics offered better comfort and satisfaction.

This synthesis highlights several key interventions that can be made prior throughout the entirety of the MMS process. While certain results were statistically significant, many others were clinically significant as explained further in the individual studies. Because patient satisfaction is measured through various different scales, an additional analysis is warranted through a more standardized approach. Incorporating similar techniques into regular dermatologic practice may further increase the benefits of MMS.

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