

Patients' emotional feelings and experiences when undergoing a peripheral Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA)

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Background: Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) often caused by atherosclerosis is a major health-care issue worldwide. Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) on the lower limb is a common procedure used in order to enhance the peripheral circulation. With an increasing number of individuals acquiring PTA treatment and with an increased focus on patient centred care there is a need to find out more about the patients feelings and thoughts of undergoing PTA.

Aim: The aim of the study was to identify patients who are predominantly anxious or calm during and PTA and to explore reasons for these emotional feelings and experiences.

Method: The study includes 51 patients who received PTA treatment in the western region of Sweden.

Findings: 78% of the patients rated themselves as calm after the PTA. The analyzed interviews resulted in two themes; reasons for feelings of calmness and reasons for feelings of anxiety.

Conclusion: In order to feel calm during and after the PTA the patient needs to be able to foresee upcoming events. Information given to the patient prior to the PTA procedure needs to be comprehensive and consistent with the actual situation at the angiography suite. The dialogue with the physician and the nurse radiographers was considered as valuable as well as the ability to follow the procedure on the image screen. A thorough dialogue with the physician in a calm setting after the PTA is concluded as important for the patients' ability to foresee and plan for the future.

Biography

Maud Lunden has worked in most areas within radiography and almost 10 years at the cardiology unit with PCI. She is currently clinical supervisor at Sahlgrenska University hospital and guest-lecturer at the Institute of Health and Care Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy at University of Gothenburg.

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