

DOES PRE-OPERATIVE PATIENT EDUCATION IMPROVE PATIENT SATISFACTION FOLLOWING ROBOT – ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC PROSTATECTOMY?

S. Zaretzer¹, S. Regev¹, G. Louie¹, S. Aharony¹, R. Tal¹, J. Baniel¹

(1) Rabin Medical Center, Dept. of Urology, Petach Tikva, Israel



Introduction

Robot-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (RALP) has overtaken traditional open retropubic radical prostatectomy (RRP) as the procedure of choice of men suffering from localized prostate cancer. Since our center's first RALP procedure, 3.5 years ago, over 400 cases were performed in our department. Despite the fact that existing evidence does not support the superiority of RALP over RRP in terms of oncologic or functional results, the prevailing view is that better overall results are expected with an "innovative" procedure. It has been shown that patients who underwent RALP had higher expectations regarding post-operative outcomes and were more likely to be dissatisfied, compared their RRP counterparts, with sub-optimal outcomes. In order to improve patient understanding and manage expectations, we initiated a pre-operative patient education program.

Objectives

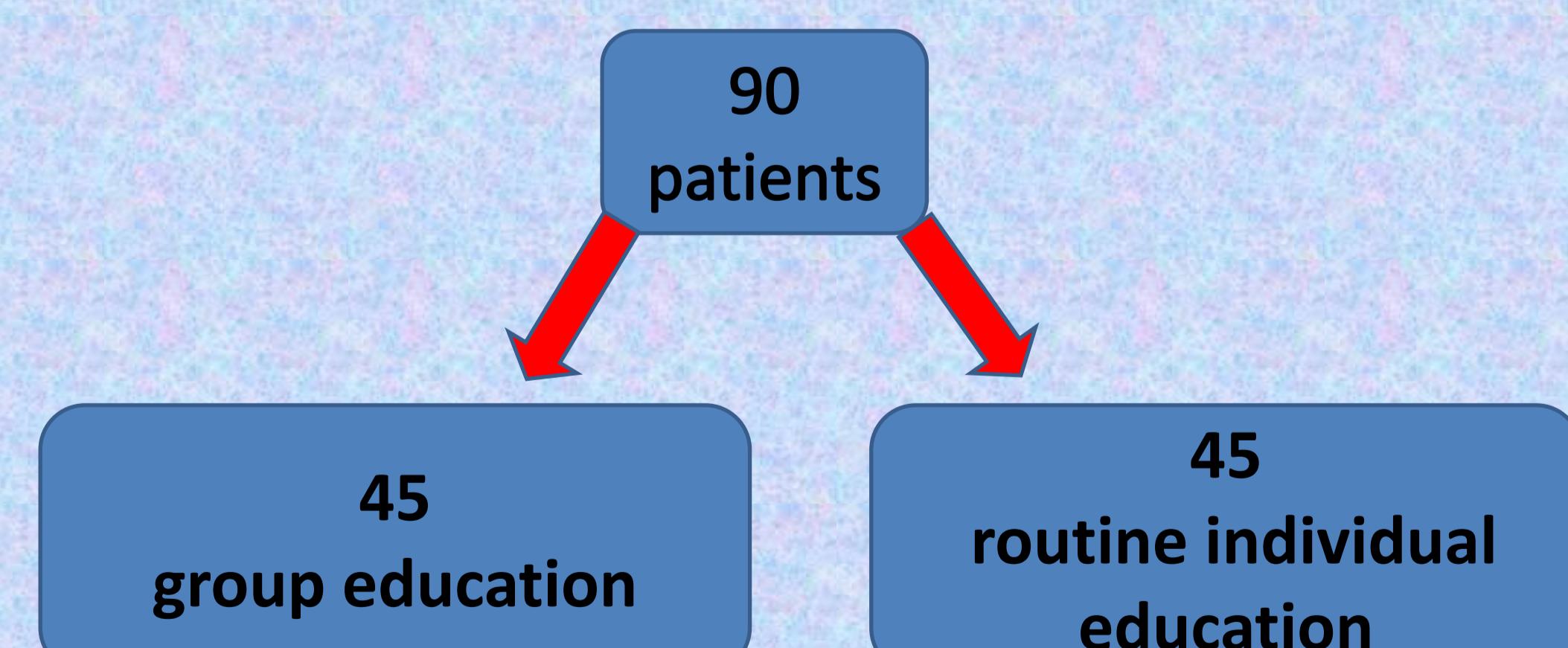
The education program focused on:

- Explanation of the operative procedure
- Continence and potency issues
- Possible complications
- Recovery process

Our aim was to assess the impact of this program on patient satisfaction.

Materials & Methods

The cohort



Pre-operative education consisted of a dedicated session.

On post-operative day 10 patients were asked to fill a designated questionnaire assessing their overall satisfaction and knowledge .

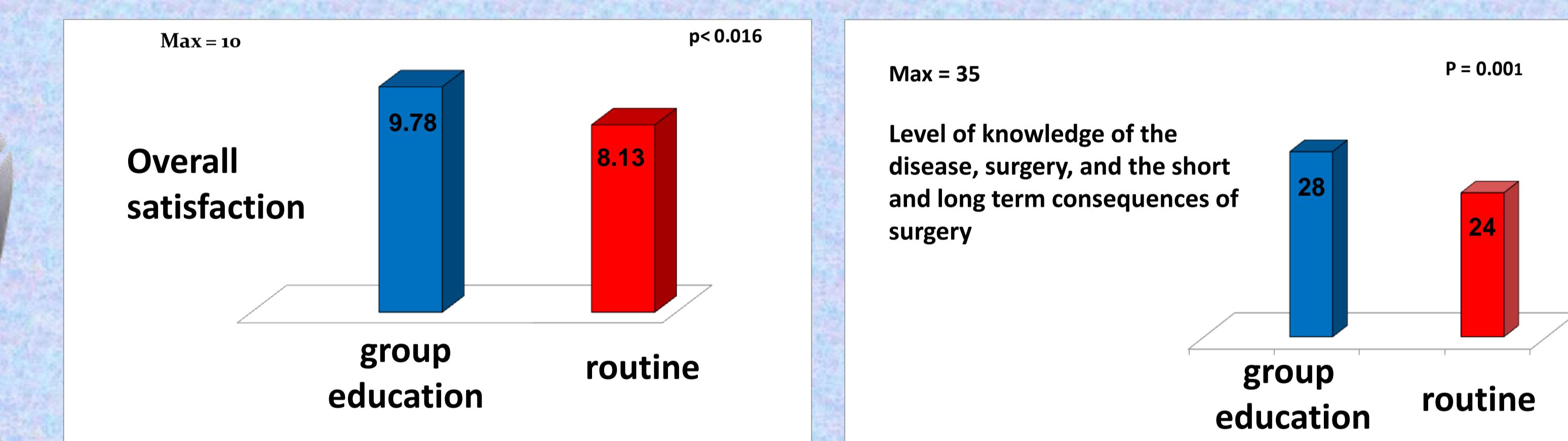


Group Education

Pre-operative education group includes patients scheduled for surgery in the upcoming month with their spouses.
The group meets a multi-disciplinary urology team preoperatively for a two hours session.

Results

- Average age 63.4, (range 44-74)
- No significant difference between the two groups regarding age, education, or country of origin.



- Overall satisfaction was significantly higher in the pre-operative group education.
- No difference was shown regarding their level of pain, distress, anxiety or self-care ability.

Conclusion

Pre-operative patient education prior to RALP surgery is essential in order to gain true understanding regarding the expected results and complications. Group education enables realistic expectations and reduce post-operative regrets and dissatisfaction.