Outpatient hysteroscopy consent audit

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Introduction

Outpatient hysteroscopy is a diagnostic test which can be conducted in the outpatient setting. It involves the use of an endoscope to visualise and examine the uterine cavity, negating the requirement for a formal theatre or general or regional anaesthesia. It may be used to investigate abnormal uterine bleeding and also offers a range therapeutic options in the ambulatory setting.

Under GMC consent guidance (Decision making and Consent GMC 2020) , all patients should be involved in decisions about their care and treatment. Doctors should be satisfied that they have a patient's consent before providing treatment.

We conducted a study of the consenting practice for outpatient hysteroscopy within our district general hospital setting.

Results

We audited 30 records of patients who had undergone outpatient (office) hysteroscopy. Data was acquired using the patient electronic record system to review documentation from consultation and procedure.

N=30	Mean Age=49

Indication for hysteroscopy

Heavy menstrual bleeding	11
Recurrent miscarriage	2
Irregular bleeding	6
Intermenstrual bleeding	1
Lost coil	1
Post menopausal bleeding	7
Incidental thickened endometrium	2

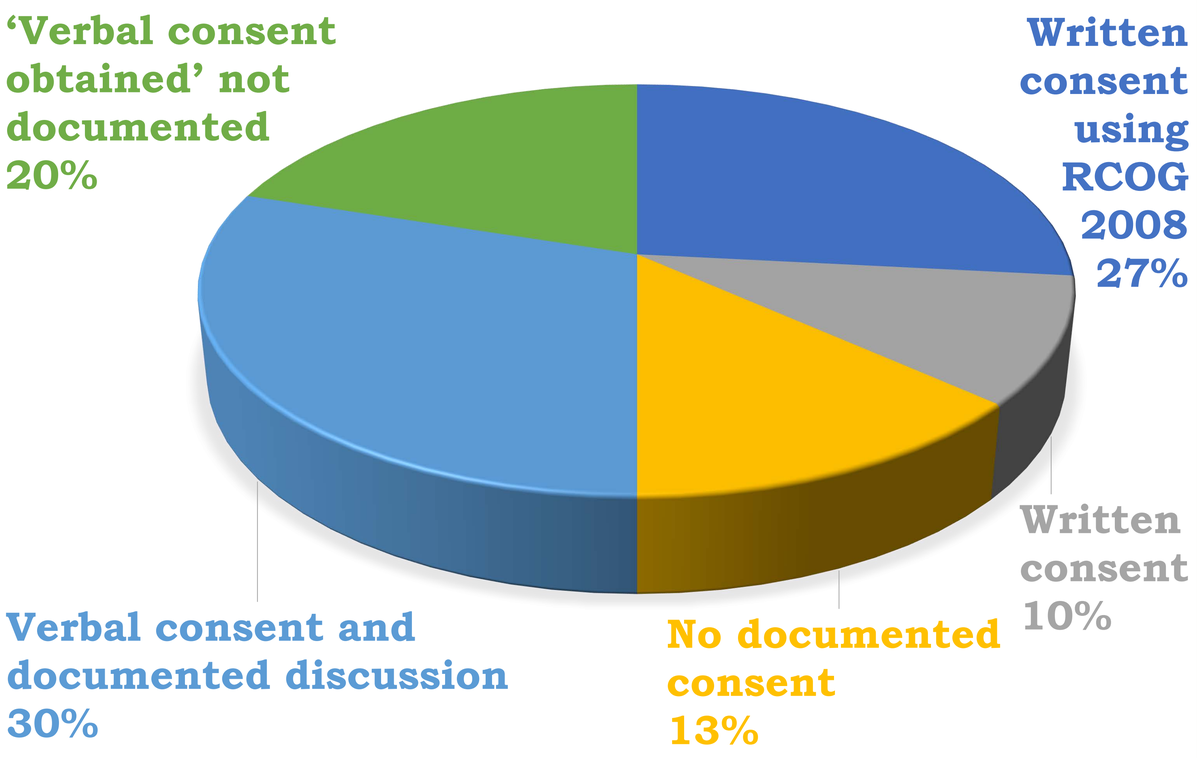
Acknowledgments

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Procedures performed

Diagnostic hysteroscopy + biopsy	26
Hysteroscopy and myosure polypectomy	2
Hysteroscopy and insertion of mirena	1
Hysteroscopy and endometrial ablation	1

Consent



Conclusion

There is wide variation in the consenting practice for outpatient hysteroscopy, at Basildon Hospital.

The use of standardised consent forms may reduce this variation in practice and allow for more robust documentation of the consent process. This would facilitate a standardised discussion regarding the potential benefits and harms which a hysteroscopy may entail.

An accurate record of the consent process should be documented in the patient records (as per GMC Good Medical Practice).

Reference

GMC, 2020, *Decision making and consent*, viewed 13 October 2022, https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/decision-making-and-consent