

A study of women reminded by short message service for elective gynaecological surgery

Submission date 03/07/2011	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 29/07/2011	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 13/04/2017	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The return of patients for surgery is not always optimal and this wastes valuable theatre time in a setting where this resource is in high demand by every gynaecological unit. Usually patients are booked into a gynaecological elective surgery book. The patients are expected to return on a particular date before the surgery. An appointment card is given to the patient as a reminder and the patient's outpatient card is kept in the hospital. The aim of this study is to find out whether reminding women using a text message increases the number of patients returning for gynaecological surgery.

Who can participate?

Women scheduled to undergo surgery with a waiting list of at least 1 month

What does the study involve?

Between 48-72 hours after joining the study, all participants are sent a text confirming that they have been booked for gynaecological surgery. Participants are randomly allocated 3-10 days after joining the study into intervention and control groups. The intervention group receive another reminder text 48-72 hours before the date of arrival to hospital for the scheduled surgery. Just after the expected day of return for surgery, the researchers find out if the participants in both groups have returned for surgery.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

This study is new and innovative since no study of this kind has been done on gynaecological patients, certainly not in South Africa. At the end of this study a higher number of patients are expected to return for gynaecological surgery. This would optimize all theatre time available. There are no risks involved for the patients. They receive the same level of care if decided not to take part or withdraw from the study.

Where is the study run from?

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (South Africa)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

May to December 2011

Who is funding the study?
Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (South Africa)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Johannes Potgieter

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Dr Johannes Potgieter

Contact details
16 Whispering Leaves
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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
A study of women reminded by short message service for elective gynaecological surgery: a single-blind, randomized controlled trial

Study objectives
The return of patients for surgery is not always optimal and this wastes valuable theatre time in a setting where this resource is in high demand by every gynaecological unit. By doing this study the researcher would like to point out a gap or show an innovation in improving patient compliance by using telemedicine in the middle income country. This proposed study is new and innovative since no study of this kind has been done on gynaecological patients, certainly not in South Africa. At the end of this study the researcher expects a better number of patients returning for gynaecological surgery. This would optimize all theatre time available.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical), University of Witwatersrand, 25/03/2011, ref: M110317

Study design

Single-blind randomized controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Telemedicine for gynaecological surgery

Interventions

Women recruited for the study as above will be allocated study numbers after they have been recruited. These numbers will be randomised 3 to 10 days after recruitment to intervention and control groups in blocks of ten, to ensure a more-or-less equal spread of intervention and control participants.

The random numbers will be generated by the researchers supervisor (who will not be involved with recruitment), and issued by telephone (or SMS) to the researcher for each study number. The researcher will then know which of the participants will receive a reminder SMS (intervention group). Between 48 and 72 hours before the expected date of arrival back to hospital for gynaecological surgery, intervention group participants will receive an SMS from the researcher reminding them of the return date for operation.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

At or just after the expected day of return for surgery for each participant (in both intervention and control groups), the researcher will find out from the gynaecological wards if the participant has returned for surgery

Key secondary outcome(s))

No secondary outcome measures

Completion date

31/12/2011

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

Women scheduled to undergo surgery with a waiting list of at least 1 month

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

Female

Key exclusion criteria

1. Women who do not have mobile phones and women who object to receiving SMS communications from the hospitals on their mobile phones
2. Age less than 18 years
3. Inability to comprehend English SMSs
4. Refusal to participate in the trial

Date of first enrolment

01/05/2011

Date of final enrolment

31/12/2011

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

South Africa

Study participating centre

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital

South Africa

2013

Sponsor information**Organisation**

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (South Africa)

ROR

<https://ror.org/02g48bh60>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

Investigator initiated and funded (South Africa)

Funder Name

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Syndicate, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (funding cost for ISRCTN registration)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes