Developing a system for patients to report symptoms online following upper GI surgery

Background to the Study
Following upper GI surgery, patients can experience acute and long-term adverse effects, many of which occur after hospital discharge. The Bristol eRAPID team is investigating whether an online symptom reporting questionnaire could allow for the earlier detection of complications. The eRAPID system will generate specific symptom management advice for patients based on the symptoms they report. If their symptoms are a cause for concern, the eRAPID system can generate an alert email to a clinician on their care team, and clinicians can access patient’s reports of symptoms to monitor recovery post hospital discharge.

The eRAPID System
Patients are given a unique username, and their questionnaire responses are stored securely on a dedicated database. They are asked to complete the questionnaire weekly, and at any time they are concerned about their symptoms. The questionnaire is made up of 32 short questions which cover 20 symptom areas, including pain, bowel function, eating and drinking and physical functioning. Patients will automatically receive symptom management advice depending on their symptom levels, and general symptom management advice will be available at any time on the main eRAPID website.

Symptom Reporting
Patients are asked to report their symptoms weekly for 8 weeks following hospital discharge, and these results are available to patients and clinicians as graphs.

So far we have recruited 17 participants. Participants are telephoned weekly and we are conducting interviews with some participants to get more details about how useful they find the eRAPID system and what improvements we can make. Feedback has been very positive, with all participants stating that the questionnaire is easy to use and understand. We are also planning to interview clinicians about receiving symptom alerts from the eRAPID system.

Graph demonstrating reduction in pain levels during recovery from UGI surgery.
If you would like more information or if you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you.

If you would be interested in using the eRAPID UGI Surgery System at your hospital, please get in touch with us. You can email us on:

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