Are patient reported outcomes enough? Do we need functional assessments?

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The fundamental purpose of health care delivery is the achievement of good patient health outcomes. To accomplish this goal, we use a variety of methods for measuring, reporting, and comparing outcomes, that, ideally, are not only effective, but also integrate patient values. As we recognize patients represent powerful forces to encourage continuous improvement in value and restructuring of care, we need to measure what matters to patients. Outcome measures are the true measures of health care quality, but outcome measures must continually be improved and evaluated to ensure that they are patient-focused and enhance the value for the patients.

A motion laboratory provides access to a broad spectrum of investigational opportunities to detect, document, analyse and monitor motor function, thus contributing to a diagnosis, particularly in rare cases or atypical motor disorders. In motion analysis, measurement systems are integrated to allow for the synchronized collection of data. Motion analysis provides clinicians, researchers and students with comprehensive knowledge and a better understanding of human movement and activity.

Value based health care (VBHC) is one of the most important new paradigms in modern health care services. Within this model, Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) serve as the gold standard. Research demonstrates that a combination of performance-based and patient-reported outcomes are needed to properly assess physical function. Yet there is currently a lack of consensus regarding the best measures to use. Therefore, in VBHC, functional outcome measures and PROs combined with “best practice” are crucial.

This lecture will focus on presenting aspects of patient reported outcomes and functional assessments in the context of value based health care delivery.