

What slipped through... Elective surgery cancellations due to suboptimal medication management

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Introduction

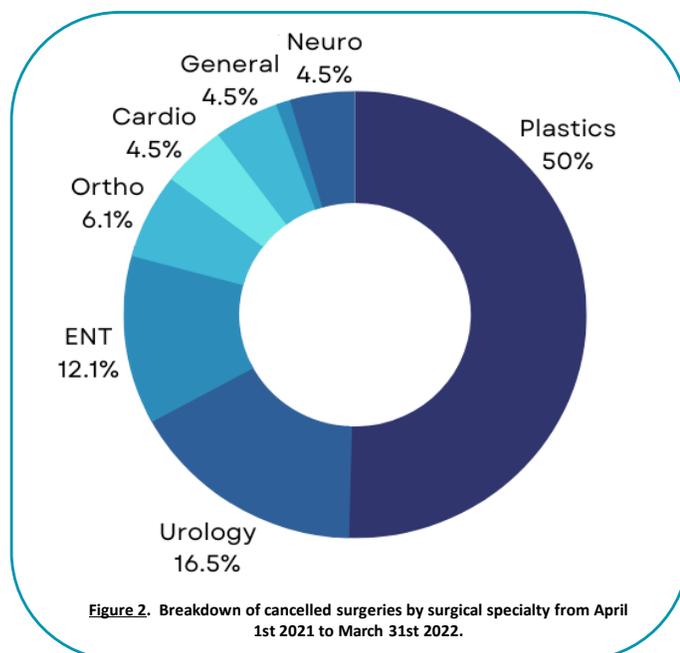
- ❖ Medication optimisation is pivotal to avoid costly same day surgery cancellations at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.
- ❖ Patients are ideally seen in a multidisciplinary preadmission clinic (PAC) for optimisation of their health, medications and education.
- ❖ PAC pharmacist have been shown to improve preoperative medication optimisation and prevent same day surgery cancellations.

Aims

To identify the incidence and nature of elective theatre cancellations due to suboptimal medication management, to inform strategies that can optimise current processes.

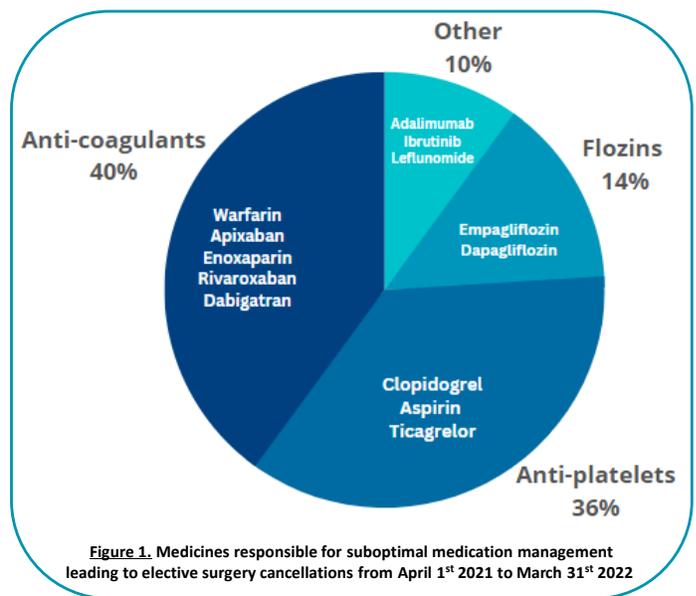
Methods

- ❖ This was a retrospective study of medication related elective surgery cancellations, from April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022.
- ❖ The following data points were collected;
Causative medications, surgical specialty, PAC Pharmacist review (face-to-face vs phone) and Early pharmacist intervention to avoid cancellations



Conclusion

- ❖ The low proportion of medication related cancellations demonstrate the benefits of PAC pharmacists in preventing surgical cancellations
- ❖ Initiatives employed in collaboration with the Plastics team since project: updating Local Anaesthetic elective booking form to increase patients calling PAC for Medication advice, screening patients who don't routinely come to PAC, optimising medical communication in notes, discussing a Business Case for a dedicated Plastic PAC Pharmacist.
- ❖ This project has significant cost saving ramifications for the hospital by avoiding same day surgery cancellations.
- ❖ This audit will be revisited in 12 months after review of changes to current processes.



Results

- ❖ A total of 66 (of 6626) surgeries were cancelled due to medications (see above, Figure 1)
- ❖ The specialties with the highest medication related cancellations were Plastics (50%), followed by Urology (16.5%) (see left)
- ❖ Phone consultations had higher cancellations compared to in-person (40% vs. 30%) respectively.
- ❖ A total of 41% of patients had the PAC pharmacist identify that surgery should be rescheduled to prevent same day cancellation.

Figure 3. Benefits of the project and where to next



Metro South Health

Princess Alexandra Hospital