

E-Appendix

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction

The interviewer will give the following introduction to the participant: “We are doing this study in order to achieve a better understanding of what a person experiences when choosing to have an elective amputation for a lower limb that is not working well for them. I’ve asked you to come here today to tell your story of how you came to the decision to have an elective amputation and what the outcome has been. I want you to tell me about all of the pieces of the story that you think are important.”

Prompts

(1) If the participant does not discuss early reflections about having an amputation, the interviewer will ask, “When did you first start thinking about having an amputation, and how did that thinking change over time?”

(2) If the participant does not address the issue of pain, the interviewer will ask, “Was physical discomfort a consideration in going through the process of deciding to have an amputation?”

(3) If the participant does not discuss the rehabilitation process after the procedure, the interviewer will ask, “Tell me what happened after the surgery.”

(4) If the patient does not address the role of family, friends, or health-care personnel in the decision-making process, the interviewer will ask, “What role, if any, did the people around you play in the process?”

(5) If the patient does not address the role of body image in the decision-making process, the interviewer will ask, “Did body image or the physical appearance of having an amputation play a role in the decision-making process?”

(6) If the patient does not address the issue of how the amputation has affected his or her quality of life or function, the interviewer will ask, “How has your life changed from before the amputation to now?”

(7) If the patient does not address the issue of what information was provided or what would have been helpful, the interviewer will ask, “What information was provided to you and what did you find helpful? Was there additional information that you wanted that would have helped?”

(8) If the patient does not talk about how he or she feels about his or her decision, the interviewer will ask, “Were you satisfied with your decision?”

(9) At the end of the interview, the interviewer will ask, “Were there any other factors that we haven’t talked about that played a part in your decision to have an amputation?”