



Questionnaire: The Soyka-Morand Index for the Assessment of Surgical Complications Respecting the Surgical Indication

Dear professors, dear sirs and madams, dear colleagues,

We are contacting you as we are performing an international survey on how otolaryngologists perceive surgical complications.

A commonly used tool to assess surgical complications is the so-called Clavien-Dindo grading system, which classifies surgical complications by the extent of the therapy that is necessary to resolve them. For example, a complication requiring revision in the operating theatre is worse than a complication “only” requiring blood transfusion.

This classification does not, however, consider the reason why the patient was operated in the first place. Further, potential loss of function of sensory organs and motoric nerves, which are very important in our field, is not reflected in the Clavien-Dindo grading system adequately.

In daily clinical practice, most would however agree that a marginal mandibular nerve palsy after a parotidectomy for a 2.5cm cystadenolymphoma is worse than the same complication in a patient undergoing a segmental mandibulectomy and bilateral neck dissection for advanced oral cancer. Similarly, permanent sensorineural hearing loss seems worse after routine tympanoplasty than after resection of a large vestibular schwannoma.

We therefore aimed to establish an index for the assessment of surgical complications respecting the surgical indication. We designed a questionnaire with short description of 30 real clinical cases. We kindly ask you to complete the questionnaire, which should take about 10-15 minutes.

We would greatly appreciate your participation and would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincere Regards,

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