Surgical Decision Making

M Jeyam
Consultant Shoulder & Upper Limb Surgeon
Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions
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- Those we can diagnose & treat well
Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions

- Those we can diagnose & treat well

- Those we can diagnose but not treat well
Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions

• Those we can diagnose & treat well

• Those we can diagnose but not treat well

• Those we cannot even diagnose well
Just a few examples.....
“May I refer this 48 year old lady who has left shoulder pain for 12 months. She has had 3 injections which have not improved her symptoms. I think she may benefit from surgical decompression”.
“Could I refer this gentleman who has right shoulder pain for 2 years. I have injected him twice with no effect. I organised MR scan which is normal. Could you see him with a view to arthroscopic assessment?”.
“Information is not knowledge”
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Albert Einstein
“May I refer this patient who is currently under the care of Her Majesty. He has a grade III AC joint dislocation after altercation with the police. I think he would be a good surgical candidate for ACJ reconstruction”.
“Dear Colleague, could you see this patient who came to me with right shoulder pain for 8 months. He had no injury. On examination I found he had signs of impingement including a positive Hawkin-Kennedy sign. I injected his subacromial space followed by a course of physiotherapy. His symptoms improved for 8 weeks. Unfortunately the symptoms have returned with a vengeance. I wonder whether he would be a surgical candidate?”. 
Surgical Decision Making
Surgical Decision Making

History

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures: Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

- History
- Clinical Examination
- Diagnosis
- Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

- History
- Clinical Examination
  - Diagnosis
  - Non-op measures
    - Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

- History
- Clinical Examination
- Diagnosis
- Non-op measures
- Symptoms resolve
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve
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History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve temp.

Investigations?

Surgery?
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Surgical Decision Making

- History
- Clinical Examination
- Diagnosis
- Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve temp.

Investigations?

Surgery?
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Investigations?

Surgery?
Failure of Non-Op measures ≠ Surgery
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

No effect

Back to drawing board
Surgical Decision Making

- History
- Clinical Examination
- Diagnosis

Non-op measures

No effect

Back to drawing board
Surgical Decision Making

History

Clinical Examination

Diagnosis

Non-op measures

No effect

Back to drawing board
Airport Collaborative Decision Making
Essential Prerequisites
Essential Prerequisites

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors
Essential Prerequisites

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
Essential Prerequisites

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
- Recognition of problem
Essential Prerequisites

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

• Skills

• Recognition of problem

• Judgement
Essential Prerequisites

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
- Recognition of problem
- Judgement
- Effective implementation
Essential Prerequisites
Essential Prerequisites

- Surgical skills
- Surgeon’s limitations
- “What works best in my hands”
Optimising treatment

- Outcome probabilities
- Personal preference
- “Demand-match” approach
• *Judgement comes with experience*
• *Judgement comes with experience*

• *Experience comes with a series of bad judgement*
Thank you

Any Questions?