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MP78-18 THE OPEN RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY AND THEIR FAMILIES

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (RALP) and open radical prostatectomy (ORP) have similar clinical and functional outcomes. RALP is more expensive than ORP, but it is not clear whether subsequent postoperative costs vary. We assessed the economic impact of RALP and ORP on patients and their families in the year following surgery.

METHODS

We recruited ORP and RALP patients planning surgery for stage T1-T2 prostate cancer at an academic cancer center. Economic impact questionnaires were completed at 3, 6, and 12 months after surgery. The self-administered survey included items regarding the use and cost of health services and supplies, health insurance coverage and employment, and changes in the patient's and his family's finances since prostate cancer surgery.

RESULTS

Between June 2010 and September 2013, 441 of 584 eligible patients consented (76% response rate), and 205 completed a 12-month assessment, of whom 39% had ORP and 61% had RALP. All patients had health insurance. Of 179 men (87%) who reported any new prescription medications since surgery, 12% said insurance did not cover any of the cost of those medications. Of 173 men (84%) who reported new use of incontinence pads, 75% had no insurance coverage for those costs and 23% were uncertain. Of 159 men who returned to work after prostatectomy, 36% reported not returning to work for at least one sick day. Of 159 men who reported their monthly expenses, 37% reported they spent more money on out-of-pocket expenses since surgery. About 37% of men reported they pay bills or pay them through their primary care department at least once in the 12 months since surgery.

Comparing men who had surgery to those who did not, we found that men who had surgery had more reports of new prescription medications and health care utilization.

CONCLUSION

Both RALP and ORP are associated with many postoperative costs. While RALP has an economic advantage for

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their families, and it appears to have an