

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Incomplete Surgery

Summary

A patient underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tattooed tumor in the large bowel. Four days following discharge, the patient returned with post-operative complications. Upon investigation a leak in the bowel and the cancerous tattooed tumor was discovered. Due to a deteriorating condition, the patient was transferred to a tertiary care centre. The cancerous tattooed tumor was surgically removed from the middle portion of the large bowel. The bowel leak was repaired. The patient was transferred back to the originating facility approximately two weeks later.

Keywords: Incomplete Surgery, Surgical

This review is based on a single event.

Findings of the Review:

An incorrectly identified area of the large bowel during a colonoscopy biopsy and an incorrectly labelled specimen for pathology contributed to an incorrect portion of the large bowel being surgically removed.

There was an absence of a staging CT imaging report being visualized prior to the surgical procedure to confirm the presence of an identified tattooed tumor in the large bowel.

System Learning:

Implement a process where all necessary diagnostic imaging is visualized as a confirmation of the task prior to surgical procedures.

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