

## SINGAPORE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION LECTURE

### The Value Of Value And The Promise Of PROMIS



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Value is a current critical issue in medicine. While many suggest that value is low cost, clearly there is more to value than cost. Some suggest that outcomes are of paramount importance and will drive value. Poor outcomes at low cost are clearly of no value. Excellent outcomes at high cost, are expected, are the challenge we face in US healthcare and are also not of high value. The **greatest value is excellent outcomes at low cost**. But, what outcomes are important? And how can we compare different treatments across medicines to determine the value defined as **Value = Outcomes/Cost** with different measures of outcomes?

**Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs)** are increasingly recognized as the main source for determining value in healthcare. Patients should report on how they are doing, from their perspective. After all, that is what they most care about. This, of course, can be problematic, as the measures used need to be sensitive to the medical problem being treated, need to measure the problem for which the patient came to treatment, and ideally should not impact the care of the patient or unduly burden the office or facility.

In orthopaedics, “**disease or anatomically-specific**” measures have been commonly used for many years. Recently, serious questions have arisen concerning the psychometric properties of these measures, and whether we can measure PROs equally or even better with a more generic “**domain**”-based platform that at the same time will permit comparisons across disease states in different organ systems. This presentation will cover some of these issues and others, as we move to the era of regular, broadly implemented collection of patient reported outcomes.

Likely, we are moving to near universal collection of outcome information across medical practice styles, for research, patient care and quality assurance. The ideal measures include those that most matter to the patient and are assessed by the patient. Those tools that are most accurate and reliable, and also least burdensome, will win out, and it appears that the NIH funded **PROMIS** group has developed the tools of the future leveraging **computerized adaptive technology** and focusing on **general health domains such as physical function, pain, social health and mental health**.