



Dr Andrea Pusic interview – ICHOM Newsletter

What is your background in healthcare?

I am a plastic surgeon with a clinical focus on reconstructive surgery. I was previously at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and joined Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2018 as the Chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Since 2010, I have led a research team that has developed and implemented a series of patient-reported outcomes measures (PROMs) in plastic surgery (www.qportfolio.org).

Tell us a little about your role and priorities at the *Patient-Reported Outcomes, Value & Experience (PROVE) Center* at Brigham Health

I established the PROVE in 2018 to expand the collection, analysis and use of patient-reported outcomes data in Surgery. The PROVE Center focuses on using innovative techniques to study outcomes that matter most to patients and their caregivers. Through collaboration with clinicians, researchers, patient advocates and policymakers, we seek to amplify the patient voice in surgical decision-making and value-based health care.

What difference will PROVE, Brigham Health make to its patients and professionals?

We employ cutting-edge methodology to build condition-specific patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) and to implement these and other measures into research, quality improvement and assessment of healthcare value. The PROVE Center also develops patient and clinician-facing digital platforms that facilitate meaningful use of PROs in clinical care. PROVE researchers specialize in mixed methods research, qualitative and quantitative methods, evidence synthesis, psychometrics (including computer adaptive testing), and health economic evaluations. With these skills, our multidisciplinary team aims to promote and operationalize high-value, patient-centered care at Brigham Health, MGB and around the world.

Why do you think Patient Reported Outcomes are so important to improving healthcare delivery?

Patient-reported outcomes reflect outcomes that matter a great deal to patients, like physical function, symptoms and satisfaction. This is particularly true in surgery, where many procedures are now performed with the main goal of improving quality of life. This is especially true in areas like plastic surgery, orthopaedic joint replacement and spine surgery. Through collection of patient-reported outcomes, we can understand if the goals of surgery were indeed accomplished and with this information, continue to improve healthcare delivery.

