

Appendix 1: Interview Guide

Domain/Topic	Interview Questions/Prompts
Background— Diagnosis, VBT Decision, Post- Surgery Experience	Do you remember how old you were when you received your scoliosis surgery?
	Can you think back to the time when you were first diagnosed with scoliosis and tell me about your experience?
	Can you tell me about you/your families experience deciding to undergo VBT? -How involved were you during decision-making? Was it more of a parental decision? -Do you remember how your family/health care providers discussing the options with you? -Do you remember how you/your family compared VBT with PSF? [Risks? Benefits? Trade-offs?]
	What were you/your families’ main reasons for choosing VBT? Do you remember what influenced the decision?
	Thinking back before surgery, how did you define surgical success? What were you hoping would be successful outcomes of the surgery?
	Now let’s talk about your experience after surgery. Tell me about life right after surgery and what you remember about your hospital stay. -How did you cope physically during your hospital stay? -How did you cope emotionally during your hospital stay?
	Can you tell me about your rehabilitation and recovery journey after the hospital when you were back at home? -How did you copy physically during recovery at home? -How did you cope emotionally during recovery at home?
	Have you had a revision surgery? If so, tell me about that experience.

Transition: Next, are some questions about your satisfaction with the outcomes of surgery.

Domain/Topic	Interview Questions/Prompts
Satisfaction with Outcomes Achieved What are patients’ impressions about the outcomes achieved? Expectation Dis/Confirmation How are expectations met or unmet?	<i>Symptoms</i>
	Are you currently experiencing things that you believe are a result of your surgery? [any pain, shortness of breath, numbness, hot/cold sensation, tingling]
	If experiencing symptoms/things: What do you believe is causing these things? Why do you believe this? How do you cope/manage these things?
	Thinking back to any symptoms you had before surgery, how have your symptoms changed since surgery?
	Are you satisfied with the relief of symptoms? Can you explain why you feel that way?
	<i>Function</i>
	Are you satisfied with your ability to perform daily activities of living ? Can you explain why you feel that way? Do you have to make any accommodations to perform daily activities?
	Beyond daily activities, are you satisfied with your ability to do the activities you enjoy, such as sport or recreational activities ? Can you explain why you feel that way? Do you have to make any accommodations to perform these activities?
Are there any activities you’d like to do that you can’t do?	

Probes: Tell me about it, Take me through the experience, Can you say more about that, What do you mean, I’m not sure I’m following you, Would you explain that

	Thinking back to your expectations before surgery and where you are at now, are you satisfied with your ability to perform activities? In what ways?
	How confident are you in the strength of your back? How much confidence do you have in the strength of the tethers in your back?
	Do you do things to protect your back/tether?
	<i>Cosmesis and Self-Image</i>
	Are you satisfied with your body's appearance? [rib prominence, uneven shoulders, asymmetric waistline, postoperative scars] Can you explain why you feel that way?
	Thinking back to your expectations before surgery and where you are at now, were your expectations for the way your body looks [back, shoulders, waist] met or unmet? In what ways?
	How has your self-image changed since surgery?

Transition: Next are some questions about your overall satisfaction with your surgery.

Domain/Topic	Interview Questions/Prompts
Overall Satisfaction	How satisfied are you with the overall results of your surgery? Can you explain why you feel that way?
	What would it take to make you more satisfied with the results of your surgery?

Transition: We're almost finished—the next set of questions are about how you reflect on the decisions you made.

Domain/Topic	Interview Questions/Prompts
Decision Reflection How do patients reflect on the decisions they made?	Do you have any regrets about the decision to undergo VBT? Why/why not?
	At this stage, what's your definition of success/how do you define surgical success?
	Do you consider your surgery a success? Why or why not?
	Do you still worry about your scoliosis today? [Describe what worries you.]
	Do you worry more or less about it than before surgery?

Domain/Topic	Interview Questions/Prompts
Wrap-up	Before we wrap up, is there anything we didn't cover that you think is important for us to know?

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