

Supplementary Table 1. Summary Findings of $n=5$ Peer-Reviewed Qualitative Studies on Patient Experience with Hospital Gowns

Study	Demographics	Themes or Findings	Outcome
Desselle, Ibanez-Arricivita, Blackler, & Woodruff (2021)	$N=69$ patients, 41 healthcare workers	Standard hospital gowns (tie in the back) are practical, easy to wear, facilitate examination and surgery. 34.9% of patients answered that they were “comfortable”, 37.9% that they catered to every condition and person, 9.1% that they were dignified, 7.6% adequate size, and 6.5% were satisfied with color and design.	Practicality was seen as an essential feature of the standard hospital gown. Nevertheless, issues with dignified coverage, appropriate sizing and aesthetic appeal were evident. Pajama-like gowns could address issues of coverage, functionality, and mobility.
Frankel & Payser (2021)	$N=315$ medical and surgical patients within 2 hospitals. Age ranges: <20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80, 80+	Positive experience with PALS hospital gown redesign. Patients reported that PALS was comfortable and functional. Jumpsuit model was chosen more frequently than top and pants.	Positive feedback from patients; satisfaction with PALS based on preserved sense of dignity through coverage, sizing and mobility.
Syed, Stilwell, Chevrier, Adair, & Markle (2021)	$N=40$ interviewees with experience in the healthcare system ($n=8$ patients and family members, 12 clinicians, 20 system stakeholders)	Utility, Economics, Comfort and Dignity, Aesthetics	Patients emphasized functional limitations in standard hospital gowns; Stakeholders emphasized cost-effective implementation and alignment with healthcare procedures. Both groups recognized the negative impacts of the standard hospital gown.
Lucas & Dellasega (2020)	$N=10$ patients ($n=5$ women), M age = 56.4 years ($SD=19.1$). $N=10$ nurses ($n=1$ man), M age = 36.5 years ($SD=13.4$).	Patients: Provider-driven gown design, Impacted self-esteem, Empowerment through increased color options.	Both patients and stakeholders reported the need for improving the standard hospital gown design. Patients

Study	Demographics	Themes or Findings	Outcome
	<i>N</i> = 10 physicians (n=4 men), M age = 48.6 years (SD=14.4).	Providers: Negative first impressions, ideas for improvement, barriers to change	emphasized the negative impact of the standard gown on self-esteem, proposed aesthetic and functional modifications as a solution.
Morton, Cogan, Kornfalt, Porter, & Georgiadis (2020)	<i>N</i> =10 adults with congenital heart disease (Study 1), <i>N</i> =928 adults surveyed online	Symbolic embodiment of the sick role, Relinquishing control to medical professionals, emotional and physical vulnerability, lack of medical necessity, lack of dignity, general disfunction	Patients reported dissatisfaction with the standard hospital gown. Themes of vulnerability and helplessness were prominent in the discourse, as was lack of dignity and disfunction. Moreover, patients expressed frustration over being expected to wear a gown when medically unnecessary.

Supplementary material for the article: “What Makes a Hospital Gown Functional? A Comparative Case Study of Effective Patient-Centered Design Practices in Four (n=4) Hospital Gowns” by Lopez (2025, in publication).