

## **Evaluation of a Preoperative Checklist and Team Briefing Among Surgeons, Nurses, and Anesthesiologists to Reduce Failures in Communication**

### **Reference:**

Lingard, L.; Regehr, G.; Orser, B.; Reznick, R.; Baker, G. R.; Doran, D.; et. al. (2008). Evaluation of a preoperative checklist and team briefing among surgeons, nurses, and anesthesiologists to reduce failures in communication. *Archives of Surgery*, 143, 12-17.

### **Scientific Literature Reviews**

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### **Podiatric Relevance:**

As with any specialty, the goal in surgical management is to provide safe, efficient and effective patient care. This article while not specific to any one type of specialty is beneficial and useful to the podiatric community in that if implemented into one's practice or institution, could prevent major errors and adverse surgical events.

### **Methods:**

This 13 month prospective study was designed using both pre-intervention and post-intervention guides. The objective was to form a checklist that would assist in reducing the amount of communication errors in the OR, provide a systematic and educational guideline of the planned procedures to OR staff members, Surgeons and anesthesiologists and lastly identify areas of communication weakness. The checklist addressed patient information and procedural plan. Consequences of failed communication manifested as team tension, wasting of resources, time delays, inefficiency and patient inconvenience.

### **Results:**

302 briefings were completed with 8% occurring prior to patient's arrival to OR, 34% prior to induction of general anesthesia and 47% post induction. There was a decline of communication error from 3.95 pre-intervention to 1.31 post intervention. Visible negative consequences declined from 207 to 75 (64% reduction). There was a 44% improvement in patient care and 34% reduction in ambiguity, knowledge gaps, and the identification of specific problems which provoked a change in operative planning. 92% of the participants noted improvement and problem resolution.

### **Conclusions:**

This article was beneficial in illuminating just how crucial communication is in the care and management of our patients. It also reveals the importance of patient management as a team approach and not solely the responsibility of the primary or treating physician.