

PATIENT SAFETY: ROLE OF THE SURGICAL SCRUB NURSE IN THE CONTROL OF MATERIALS AND INSTRUMENTS DURING THE TRANSOPERATIVE PERIOD

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INTRODUCTION:

The operating room is a complex environment, with multiple processes permeated by risks, in which professionals need to work as a team, focusing on the quality and safety of patient care. And it is worth noting that the WHO points out that half of the cases of AE in surgeries could be avoided, with the adoption of systematic safety practices.¹ The counting of compresses, gauze and surgical instruments, at the beginning of the surgery and at the end of the surgical procedure, is part of the safe surgery protocol, and aims to mitigate the risk of retention of intracavitary objects.² The retention of intracavitary objects in surgical procedures is considered an adverse event never events.³ Patient safety should be a priority for all professionals working in the perioperative period. The surgical procedure involves the orchestrated work of a multidisciplinary team, and requires attention and follow-up of pre-established protocols, no matter what the surgery.⁴

OBJECTIVE:

To verify the surgical instrument technician's perception of the safe surgery protocol and to know the strategies used for the control of materials and surgical instruments during the transoperative period.

METHOD:

Descriptive, qualitative study, carried out in a private hospital. 13 instrumentalists participated. Data collected between August and September 2022, through audio-recorded interviews. A structured script was used, containing seven questions, and questions referring to the sample profile. Inclusion criteria: being a nursing technician, trained and working as a surgical instrumentator. Exclusion criteria: scrub nurses absent during the data collection period. Data were analyzed using content analysis.



RESULTS:

From data analysis, four categories emerged:

- **a) safe surgery protocol**
- **b) control of materials and instruments**
- **c) challenges in following the safe surgery protocol**
- **d) facilitators of following the safe surgery protocol**

CONCLUSION:

The study made it possible to know the perception of surgical technicians about the safe surgery protocol, the strategies used to control the materials placed on the instrumentation table, during the transoperative period. Haste, lack of adherence and non-compliance with institutional routines are characterized as challenges.

PERIOPERATIVE NURSING IMPLICATIONS:

The present study made it possible to identify challenges that still permeate the work of surgical scrub nurses and the context of patient safety during the intraoperative period. The results can serve as a subsidy so that improvement strategies can be implemented in order to guarantee patient safety and improve the scrub nurse's work as a member of the surgical team.

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