

Assessment of Adherence to the Use of the World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist Among Medical Staff in Ain Shams University Hospital, Egypt

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Surgical services are considered one of the main and most important, fundamental health-care services provided in any health-care system. Annually, approximately 310 million operations are performed worldwide. The World Health Organization checklist is aimed at detecting potential safety hazards, improving communication among surgical staff, and decreasing the incidence of drug and surgical site errors. We aim to assess the degree of adherence of medical staff to the safety checklist and to study the effect of supervision on adherence.

Methods: This study was conducted in the Department of Surgery, Ain Shams University Hospital, between January 2017 and December 2018, and included all the patients who underwent either elective or emergency general surgical operations in the selected unit at Ain Shams University Hospital. The baseline pre-intervention phase of the study was conducted then the checklist was implemented for 4 months without supervision followed by another 4 months with supervision.

Results: We observed that the incidence of postoperative morbidities (21.40%) before implementation significantly decreased after implementation without (11.2%) and with supervision (4.7%). A significant improvement in adherence was observed in the three groups in terms of the number of patients with missed items in the checklist (10.9%) after implementation without (5.2%) and with supervision (7 patients, 1.6%).

Conclusion: Our results indicated that the implementation of the surgical safety checklist was associated with improved postoperative results and decreased postoperative morbidities linked to the surgery. Further research with a larger sample is needed to investigate the association between the checklist implementation and its effect on patient mortality and survival.

Key words: surgical safety checklist, surgical services, effect of supervision on adherence