Abstract

Background and Purpose:
Operating room efficiency plays a vital role in the scheduled completion of surgical cases. Surgical delays affect subsequent cases for that day and result in a decrease in hospital profits. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to evaluate whether a standardized debrief report would decrease surgical delay times within a 10-room operating suite located within a level 2 hospital within the United States.

Methods:
This project utilized a pre/post-intervention design comparing surgical delay times, Basic Metabolic Index (BMI), age, and gender of general surgery operations. The intervention was a standardized report that was completed before the end of each surgical case.

Results:
A total of 100 general surgery cases participated in this project. Results showed a decrease in the number of minutes a case was delayed with implementation of a standardized Debrief Report. Results also showed a decrease in the number of cases that experienced a surgical delay after the intervention. Patients BMI was found to be a factor in whether a surgical delay occurred. There was no significant difference on whether gender or age resulted in a decrease in surgical delay times.

Conclusion:
The project found that a standardized debrief report could decrease the incidence of surgical delays. Further research should be conducted on whether a standardized reporting system for surgical delay times and factors would improve operating room efficiency across all surgical specialties.

Keywords: debrief, intervention, operating room, communication, efficiency,