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Approach to Latent, Organizational, Managerial, and Professional Factors in the Management of Risks Associated with Perioperative Care: Case of Touboro District Hospital

Approche des Facteurs Latents Organisationnels, Managériaux et Professionnels des Risques Associés aux Soins : Cas de l'Hôpital de District de Touboro

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RÉSUMÉ

Introduction. The management of risk factors in healthcare facilities should be based on two approaches: retrospective and predictive. The aim of our study is to evaluate the approach of latent, organizational, managerial, and professional factors in the management of risks associated with perioperative care at Touboro District Hospital. Methods. This was a prospective, descriptive, cross-sectional study conducted from May to August 2023. Data were collected by direct observation and direct interviews. Results. The study revealed that the major risks were organizational, professional and associated with perioperative care, highlighting the absence of warning tools (62.7%), the non-existence of the recovery room (88.1%), the waiting room (83%), and failure to check the patient's skin condition (81.4%); operating room instructions (76.3%), patient serological tests (72.9%); non-existence of a vacuum cleaner (69.5%); hair removal (67.8%); check-list (66.1%); non-observance of operating room staffing levels (52.5%) and difficulties with waste disposal (62.7%). **Conclusion**. These non-conformities are the direct consequences of all other forms of risk. From this study, it emerges that the failings identified in the perioperative phase are of a general, politico-managerial nature in risk management, the quality of which seems almost non-existent. The organizational work culture is outdated, with the result that poor risk management is a daily occurrence in perioperative care.

ABSTRACT

Introduction. la gestion des facteurs de risque dans les établissements de santé doit reposer sur deux approches : rétrospective et prédictive. Le but de ce travail est d'évaluer l'approche des facteurs latents, organisationnels, managériaux et professionnels dans la gestion des risques associés aux soins périopératoires à l'Hôpital de District de Touboro. Méthodologie. Il s'agissait d'une étude prospective, descriptive, transversale menée de mai à août 2023. Les données ont été recueillies par une observation et les entretiens directs. Résultats. Sur cette période L'étude a révélé que les principaux risques étaient organisationnels, professionnels et associés aux soins périopératoires, mettant en évidence l'absence d'outils d'alerte (62,7%), l'inexistence de la salle de réveil (88,1%), de la salle d'attente (83%), et l'absence de vérification de l'état cutané du patient (81. 4%) ; les instructions de la salle d'opération (76,3%), les tests sérologiques du patient (72,9%) ; l'absence d'aspirateur (69,5%); l'épilation (67,8%); la check-list (66,1%); le non-respect des effectifs de la salle d'opération (52,5%) et les difficultés liées à l'élimination des déchets (62,7%). Conclusion. Ces non-conformités sont les conséquences directes de toutes les autres formes de risques. Il ressort de cette étude que les défaillances identifiées dans la phase périopératoire sont d'ordre général, politico-managérial, dans la gestion des risques dont la qualité semble quasi inexistante. La culture de travail de l'organisation est dépassée, ce qui fait que la mauvaise gestion des risques est quotidienne dans les soins périopératoires.

INTRODUCTION

As in industry, the management of risk factors in healthcare facilities should be based on two approaches: retrospective and predictive [1, 2]. In the context of our

study, only the retrospective approach will be considered. The notion of risk remains a necessary key in the daily life of every human being, especially in a complex field such as health [3, 4].



FOR QUICK READERS

What is known of the subject

In Cameroon, given the frequency and degree of incidents and accidents, managing the safety of patients, their families, staff, and equipment is becoming a necessity in hospital facilities.

The question addressed in this study

Approach to latent, organizational, managerial, and professional factors in the management of risks associated with perioperative care in Touboro.

What this study brings as new

- The failings identified in the perioperative phase were of a general, politico-managerial nature in risk management
- 2. The study highlighted the absence of warning tools (62.7%), the non-existence of the recovery room (88.1%), the waiting room (83%), and failure to check the patient's skin condition (81.4%); operating room instructions (76.3%), patient serological tests (72.9%); non-existence of a vacuum cleaner (69.5%); hair removal (67.8%); check-list (66.1%); non-observance of operating room staffing levels (52.5%) and difficulties with waste disposal (62.7%).

Implications for practice, policies or future research. Ongoing training, awareness-raising, and audits could be implemented to solve the issue.

Hospital risk is an undesirable situation with negative consequences resulting from the occurrence of one or more problems within a hospital structure, which disrupt the achievement of its primary objectives, namely quality of care and patient safety [5]. Risk management in hospitals is still a topical area of interest. The hospital is still a place of care, so exposure to risks is always present [3]. Risks may involve the patient and those around him/her (diagnostic errors, nosocomial infections, equipment malfunctions, complications, patient falls on the operating table, errors in administering medication to the patient), but also staff (airborne contamination, occupational and environmental risks, state of health, unavailability of the specialist) and equipment (fires, breakdowns, deterioration of equipment, flooding of premises, absence, failure, etc.) [2].

Nowadays, given the frequency and degree of incidents and accidents, managing the safety of patients, their families, staff, and equipment is becoming a necessity in hospital facilities. Zero risk remains a buzzword, it just needs to be reduced or controlled [2]. The general objective of this study is to evaluate the approach to latent, organizational, managerial, and professional factors in perioperative care in the case of Touboro District Hospital. More specifically, to identify non-conformities and their causes, and to map latent factors associated with care.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

This was a prospective, descriptive, cross-sectional study. From May 25 to August 31, 2023.we included all surgical staff (surgeons, anesthetists, operating room nurses, orderlies, etc.) over 15 years of age and willing to take part in the study. We excluded from the study all

persons under 15 years of age and those aged 15 and over who had not consented to participate in the study.

Our sampling was non-probabilistic consecutive and exhaustive. This work was carried out in two stages. In the first stage, a self-administered questionnaire was used to assess the healthcare staff. In the second stage, a nonparticipatory direct observation technique was used to collect data on professional practices. Our variables were socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, specialty, matrimonial status, level of education, profession, and religion among nursing staff; risk typology variables among surgeons, anesthetists, and operating theatre nurses. The Ishikawa or fishbone diagrams was used to identify the main causes of a problem, by classifying and visualizing causes into major families and ensuring that no cause is forgotten [6,7]. To draw the Ishikawa diagram: we first of all defined the problem in terms of the effect observed, then we determined the possible causes of the problem, using a common thread based on 5 families: Manpower or human resources: professionals, problems of skill, organization, management, etc...; Material: equipment, machines, small equipment, premises; Medium/Material: everything that can be consumed, or the element that is transformed by the process (this may be the patient, with his or her own risk); Method: corresponds to the way of doing things, procedures, instructions, etc...; Milieu: physical and human environment, working conditions, relational aspects...

Pareto diagram is a graphical representation of the classified frequency counts of the values for the different levels of a categorical or nominal variable. This diagram highlights the most important causes of the total number of effects, enabling targeted measures to be taken to improve a situation. The diagram is based on the "80/20" rule". This rule states that around 80% of problems are the result of 20% of causes. Les causes les plus importantes sur le nombre total d'effet et ainsi de prendre des mesures ciblées pour la sécurité des patients [6,8,9]. The experimental procedures used in this study were approved by authorization of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Ngaoundere N° 2023/0758/UN/R/DFS/C-DASR/CD-SBM from May 12 2023 and the Touboro District Hospital to recruit participants for this study. Sphinx plus2 V5 was the survey and data analysis software. It assisted in each of the four main stages involved in carrying out a survey (excluding the data collection phase): creating the questionnaire, entering responses, quantitative data processing, and qualitative data analysis quantitative data processing and qualitative data analysis. Given the very short time available for data collection, this study did not take into account all aspects of risk covering all perioperative periods, whether for patients, their families, operating room staff, or equipment.

RESULTS

We surveyed a total of 59 staff at Touboro District Hospital. Among the nursing staff, the most representative age range was 25-30 years (42.4%); the



majority were male (69.5%), with an M/F sex ratio of 2.27; 61% were Unmarried; 96.6% had secondary education; 94.9% had the grade of nursing orderly; and 84.8% were Christian. (**Table 1**)

Table I: Socio-demographic characteristics of

participants					
Variable	Modalities	N	%		
Age					
	[15-20[1	1,7		
	[20-25[8	13,6		
	[25-30[25	42,4		
	[30-35[12	20,3		
	[35-40[5	8,5		
	+65	8	13,6		
Marital status					
	Unmarried	36	61		
	Married	22	37,3		
	Divorced	1	1,7		
Level of Study					
	Secondary	57	96,6		
	Superior	2	3,4		
Grade					
	General practitioner	1	1,7		
	Nurse anesthesist	1	1,7		
	Midwife	1	1,7		
	Orderlies	56	94,9		
Religion					
	Christian	50	84,8		
	Muslim	9	15,3		
Gender					
	Female	18	30,5		
	Male	41	69,5		

There were non-compliance with the operating room charter (45.8%), the checklist (66.1%), the vacuum cleaner (69.5%), the absence of an operating room council (40.7%), information on changes to the operating schedule (39%), the recovery room (88.1%), existence of the induction room (84%), lack of knowledge of the normal number of operating room staff (52.5%) and the presence of 78% for the oxygenator, 91.5% for the sterilizer and 67.8% for the post-op patient care protocol.(Table 2)

Table II : Distribution by organizational factors Variables **Modalities** % Setting up an operating theater council 23 39 Yes No 24 40,7 12 I don't know 20,3 Existence of an operating theatre charter 28,8 Yes No 27 45,8 I don't know 15 25,4 Sterilization of equipment after surgery 54 91.5 Yes No 0 0 Not adapted 5 8,5 Oxygenator available 78 46 Yes 11 18,7 No Not adapted 2 3,4

Table II: Distribution by organizational factors Modalities Variables % Protocol for patient care after surgery 40 67,8 Yes No 17 28,9 Not adapted 2 3,4 Recovery room available 3 Yes 5.1 Nο 52 88,1 I do not know 4 6,8 Existence of the induction room 2 3,4 Yes 49 83 Nο Not adapted 8 13,6 Transmission of the patient's complete file to the operating room team Yes 45 76.3 10,2 Not adapted 8 13,5 Vacuum cleaner available 13 22 Yes 5 8.5 Not adapted 41 69,5 **Existence of check-list** 6,8 Yes No 39 66,1 I do not know 16 27,1 Total number of operating theater staff 0 0 3 9 15,3 4 31 52.5 5 14 23,7 1 1,7 8 4 6,8 Modification of the operating theatre program 23 39 Yes No 28 47,5 I do not know 2 3,4 6 10,2 Not adapted

88.1% of participants were wearing regulated operating theatre uniforms and had mastered dressing and undressing practices (89.8%); 62.7% were familiar with the implementation of Blood Exposure Accident followup procedures, 62.7% used the telephone as a signaling tool, and 62.7% had problems with waste disposal. (Table 3)

Table III : Distrib	ution according to infec	tious factor	s caused		
by operating room professionals					
Variables	Modalities	N	%		
Regulated dress for the operating room					
	Yes	52	88,1		
	No	7	11,9		
Mastering dressin	g and undressing practi	ces			
	Yes	53	89,8		
	No	6	10,2		
Waste disposal pr	oblems				
	Yes	37	62,7		
	No	22	37,3		
Signaling tools					
	Phone	37	62,7		
	Whatsapp	3	5,1		
	Poster	19	32,2		
Setting up blood e	xposure accident follow-	-up			
	Yes	37	62,7		
	No	14	5,1		
	I don't know	8	32,2		

Non-compliances were as follows: compliance with instructions for access to the operating theatre (76.3%) and presence of the Post-Interventional Care Room (49.2%); compliance with bio cleaning time (50.9%); verification of the patient's skin condition (81.4%); depilation of the patient before the operating theatre (67.8%); serological examination of the patient before surgery (72.9%); bleeding of the patient after surgery (72.9%); taking of the patient's vital parameters before surgery (76.9%); compliance with the "zero jewelry" rule (86.4%); hygiene instructions on entering the surgery (84.8%). (**Table 4**)

(04.070). (140)				
Table IV : Distribution according to healthcare- associated infectious factors				
Variables	Modalities	N	%	
Compliance w	ith operating room ac	cess regula	ations	
•	Yes	14	23,7	
	No	45	76,3	
Compliance w	ith hygiene instruction theatre	ns at the en	ntrance to	
	Yes	50	84,8	
	No	9	15,3	
Compliance w	ith zero jewelry			
	Yes	51	86,4	
	No	8	13,6	
Awakening the	e patient in the post-op	perative ca	are room	
	Yes	29	49,2	
	No	16	27,1	
	i do not know	14	23,7	
Compliance w	ith biocleaning time			
•	Yes	26	44,1	
	No	30	50,9	
	i do not know	3	5,1	
Patient bleeding	ng after the operation			
	Yes	7	11,9	
	No	43	72,9	
	I do not know	2	3,4	
	Not adapted	7	11,9	
Checking the	patient's skin condition	n prior to		
,	Yes	9	15,2	
	No	48	81,4	
	I do not know	2	3,4	
Shaving the pa	atient before surgery		- ,	
9 1	Yes	9	15,2	
	No	40	67,8	
	I do not know	4	6,8	
	Not adapted	6	10,2	
Taking patient	t vital parameters befo	ore surger		
91	Yes	45	76,3	
	No	12	20,3	
	Not adapted	2	3,4	
Patient serolog	gical tests before surge		- ,	
	Yes	8	13,5	
	No	43	72,9	
	I do not know	3	5,1	
	Not adapted	5	8,5	

The Ishikawa or fishbone diagram, or the 5M diagram: material, manpower, methods, environment, and means showed:

At the material level, we note non-conformities such as the absence of a vacuum cleaner, the lack of signage ("phone"), and the lack of posters. In terms of milieu, we note non-conformities such as the absence of an induction room, the absence of a recovery room, the absence of an operating room charter, the absence of operating room advice, and the absence of a surgical schedule. In terms of medium, we note the absence of patient hair removal, the absence of bio-cleaning, the absence of serological examinations, and the absence of skin condition checks. In terms of methods, we reported the absence of a checklist, difficulties in waste disposal. and non-compliance with operating theatre instructions. In terms of manpower, we reported the absence of a surgeon, the absence of an operating room nurse specialist, the absence of a risk manager, and the lack of a master operating room staffing plan. Once the most important causes have been identified and prioritized, these frequencies can be used to plot the Pareto diagram. This diagram is based on the "80/20 rule". (**Figure 1**)

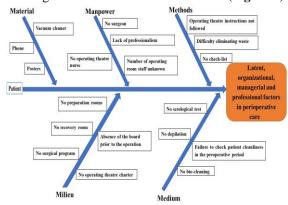


Fig 1: Modified Ishikawa diagram or 5 M diagram

According to the Pareto diagram, the focus should be on signaling tools (9.5%), recovery room (8.8%), waiting room (8.3%), patient's skin condition (8.1%), operating room instructions (7.6%), serological tests (7.3%), vacuum cleaner in good working order (6.9%), waxing of patients before placing them on the operating table (6.8%), check off the checklist as soon as the operating room opens (6.6%), waste disposal (6.3%), and staffing levels in the operating room (5.3%). (**Figure 2**)

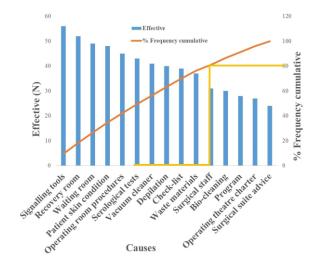


Fig 2: Modified Pareto diagram

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DISCUSSION

From Table 1, the surveys revealed a predominance of 25-30 year-old, male, secondary-school level, unmarried, operating theatre nurses grade. This result is similar to the study carried out by Tsague et al [10] in Ngaoundéré, which reported a predominance of male gender and 50% nursing grade. Table 2 shows the distribution of organizational factors. Non-compliance with operating room charter, the checklist, which was not always present during operations, the vacuum cleaner, which sometimes broke down, the absence of an operating room council, information on changes to the operating program, the recovery room, the existence of an induction room, lack of awareness of normal operating room staffing levels, and the presence of the oxygenator, sterilization, and postoperative patient care protocol. According to HAS [11], management in the operating theatre remains particularly complex, since it requires all the essential elements for the operation to be brought together at the right time: trained professionals present, patient reception prepared and informed, equipment sterilized in compliance with standards, suitable and functional equipment, drugs prescribed in compliance with good practice, external services in compliance. Kapasa et al. [12] noted a weakness in the organizational, management, and professional culture of perioperative care in an operating theatre in Casablanca. Table 3 shows the distribution of managerial factors. Non-compliance related to the wearing of operating theatre uniforms, the mastery of dressing and undressing practices, the knowledge and implementation of procedures for the follow-up of Blood Exposure Accidents, the signaling tool, and the disposal of waste. In 2016, Van Laer [13], a hospital hygienist and nurse, presented his work on EN 13795-compliant isolation gowns. According to the author, the most commonly used composition for isolation gowns is SMS (Spunbond + Meltblown + Spunbond). This is a non-woven gown made up of three layers, with a layer of meltblown forming the middle layer. Koseki et al. [14] have demonstrated that the operating theatre is still recognized as a very large point of contact between healthcare professionals and blood and body fluids. In 2021, Erwan d'Aranda et al. [15] noted that waste management in the operating theatre involves several aspects: awareness of current legislation, optimization of sorting protocols, investigation of recycling possibilities (cardboard; glass; metals; plastics), and a focus on reducing waste at source. The new Blondel and Brunel approach in risk and quality risk and quality in the healthcare environment 2004 identifies 31 dangerous situations, giving rise to 39 actions validated by the operating theatre council Information reminding procedures to be implemented, ongoing training of operating theatre staff, drawing up or updating documents, auditing care practices including skin preparation and cleaning of premises, and organization by readjusting the profile of workstations in our healthcare establishments [16]. Figure 1 has enabled us to visualize and qualify the problem described above. We can see that the shortcomings identified in operating room activities do not generally qualify the politico-managerial order of risk management associated with perioperative care. All these data enabled us to determine the causes of the main problems, using the 5M method to draw up the Ishikawa diagram. The results show that the poor management of risks associated with perioperative care has a number of causes [17, 18, 19]. Organizational mismanagement such as setting up an operating theater council, existence of an operating theatre charter, sterilization of equipment after surgery, oxygenator available, protocol for patient care after surgery, recovery room available, patient preparation room available, transmission of the patient's complete file to the operating room team, vacuum cleaner available, existence of check-list, total number of operating theater staff and modification of the operating theatre program. Ngaroua et al. [20] have demonstrated that the Check-list is one of the means of preventing and/or managing undesirable errors in the context of surgical patient safety. Infectious factors caused by operating room professionals such as regulated dress for the operating room, mastering dressing and undressing practices, waste disposal problems, signaling tools, and setting up blood exposure accident follow-up [21]. Care-related infectious risks such as compliance with operating room access regulations, compliance with hygiene instructions at the entrance to the operating theatre, compliance with zero jewelry, awakening the patient in the post-operative care room, compliance with biocleaning time, patient bleeding after the operation, checking the patient's skin condition prior to surgery, shaving the patient before surgery, taking patient vital parameters before surgery and patient serological tests before surgery [22]. Once the most important causes have been identified and prioritized, these frequencies can be used to plot the Pareto diagram. This diagram is based on the "80/20 rule" [23]. These eleven categorical variables are the 20% of effects that produce 80% of results in other words, they are the most important causes of the total number of effects, enabling targeted measures to be taken to improve patient safety [24,25]. These results are in line with those of Fanya [26], who worked on his dissertation on risk prevention and management in operating theatres in Ngaoundere. The author was able to demonstrate that in the intraoperative period, risk management, organizational culture, checklists, reporting tools, and awareness/training are the 20% of effects that will cause 80% of patient safety problems.

CONCLUSION

At the end of this cross-sectional, prospective, and descriptive study, the aim was to evaluate the approach of latent, organizational, managerial, and professional factors in the management of risks related to perioperative care in the Touboro District Hospital operating theatre. The results are as follows: Operating theatre staff are predominantly male, aged [25-30[, single, and of Christian faith. The shortcomings identified within the operating theatre organization are of a general nature, with the risk management and quality management policy virtually non-existent. Organizational factors were almost non-existent, as evidenced by the lack of board meetings,



the block charter, uncontrolled operating room staffing levels, and the absence of checklists. At the managerial level, the risks of healthcare-associated infections are highlighted by uncontrolled access to the operating theatre, non-compliance with instructions at the entrance to the operating theatre, non-compliance with biocleaning times, patients' serology was not systematically checked, patient hair removal before surgery is inappropriate when it is carried out, and patient skin checks were not always carried out. Finally, in terms of professional factors, the survey noted the absence of specialist doctors and the absence of an operating theatre nurse. Indeed, to live with risk, hospitals need to implement a risk identification and management approach, aimed at reducing to an acceptable level, in particular, the risk of adverse events associated with care, while relying on new tools such as risk mapping. If we can change the condition of patients, their visitors, and staff, we need to change the conditions in which human beings operate. Actions to be implemented include ongoing training, awareness-raising, and audits.

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AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Tsague MV, Tekourchok Mineo J, Nodem Sohanang FS: Methodology; Tsague MV, Tekourchok Mineo J, Bebeto Nemnlack V, Chebou Dawag DV, Fanya Lonang MP, Djibrilla Yaouba: Analysis and interpretation of data; Tsague MV, Tekourchok Mineo J, Rougayatou: Manuscript writing; Tsague MV Critical: revision; Tsague MV, Tekourchok Mineo J: Statistical analysis; Ze Minkande J: Study supervision

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflict of interest.

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