

The Surgical Debrief: Just Another Checklist or an Instrument to Drive Cultural Change?

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Introduction:

Post-procedural debrief is recommended to improve patient safety. We examined operating room (OR) providers' perceptions of the impact of a multi-disciplinary debrief on OR culture.

Methods:

A survey was administered to 211 OR providers at a major academic medical center. Attitudes toward the surgical debrief and its effect on patient safety and OR culture were evaluated.

Results:

Majority of providers (57.8%) believed creating a culture of safety in the OR was a shared responsibility, however, surgical attendings and trainees were more likely to assign this responsibility to the surgical attending. Few circulating nurses and trainees felt comfortable initiating a surgical debrief. Overall providers agreed that a debrief would impact both patient safety outcomes and OR culture.

Conclusions:

Providers felt implementation of a surgical debrief would positively affect operating room (OR) safety culture by improving interdisciplinary communication and influence the power hierarchy that exists in many ORs.