Checklist Improves Patient Safety And Reduces Margin Of Error In Anesthesia Administration

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INTRODUCTION

Preparing to administer anesthesia is analogous to prepping to go grocery shopping or making that fine cuisine.

Sometimes, you do simply fine with having a mental checklist.

The outcome of using a mental checklist is dependent on the current mentation of the anesthesia technician and the state of mind being free from distractions.

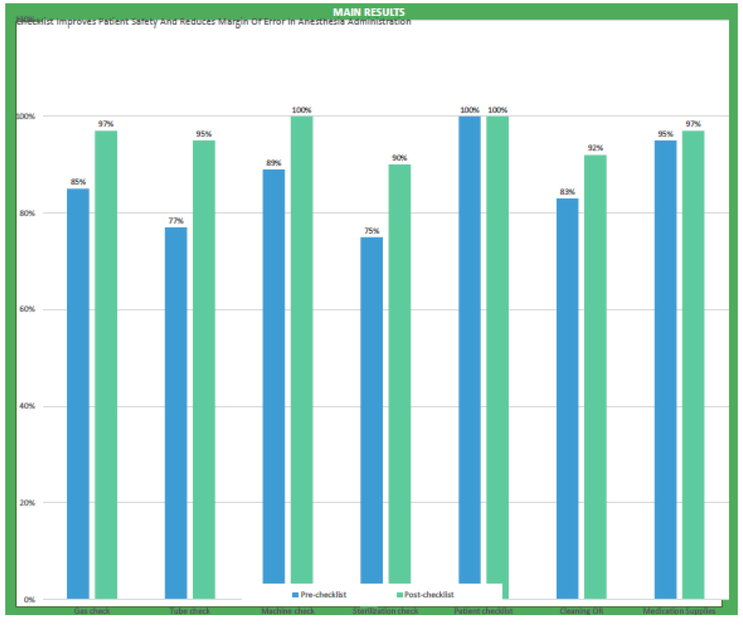
HYPOTHESIS

Having a physical checklist improves patient safety and reduces errors in anesthesia delivery

METHODS

- We conducted a pre- and post-intervention survey of all operating room staff at the National Hospital Abuja, Nigeria between January 2014 and December 2015.
- Our intervention included having a physical checklist prior to anesthesia delivery for major anesthetic cases.
- Checklist included gas check, tube check, machine check, sterilization, patient checklist, cleaning operating room (OR) following the case and having all medication supplies needed for that case in the OR room.
- Our outcomes were the frequency of times in which each item on the checklist was met for all general anesthesia cases reviewed.

MAIN RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- It was not uncommon to make errors ranging from mild and inconsequential to major blunders that warrant diligent investigation.
- Having a mental checklist reduced all items on the checklist except for having completed a patient checklist.
- Having a checklist although may take extra time contributes in reducing errors in anesthesia delivery and improving patient safety

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