

OP-01

Assessing the attitude and knowledge regarding usage of WHO Surgery Check list among healthcare personnel working in the operating theatres in Teaching Hospital, Jaffna

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Background: The Surgical Safety Checklist (SSC) has been shown to reduce perioperative errors and complications and its implementation is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO). It was made mandatory by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka in December 2013. However, it is unknown how widely this intervention is used.. The aim of this study was to assess the knowledge and attitudes towards SSC among healthcare personnel working in the operating theatres in Teaching Hospital, Jaffna

Objectives: To describe the knowledge and attitude regarding the SSC among theatre personnel, four years after the implementation by Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted using a pre tested, self administered questionnaire in all three languages. The SSC recommended by Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka was considered as the standard check list.

Results: Out of 73 respondents, 40 (54.8%) were doctors and 33(45.2%) were nurses. Among them, 53(72.6%) persons took part in using SSC and 20(27.4%) have not. Majority of the participants (75.3%) did not have an introductory workshop/ lecture/seminar regarding the SSC.

Only 38.4 % of persons had correctly mentioned the number of phases in SSC used. Majority of the respondents think lack of awareness (89%) and lack of commitment of the staff (82%) are barriers in implementing SSC. Majority of them strongly agreed that using SSC will reduce human error and will improve patients safety and their own safety. 48.6 % of the participants were either neutral or agreed with the statement saying that using SSC delays the surgery. 69% of the respondents' preferred SSC to be used for them if they were to have an operation.

Conclusion: This study indicates that the majority of the theatre personnel who participated think that use of the WHO SSC will have a beneficial effect. However, difficulties in its implementation are experienced, especially due to the lack of awareness and commitment among staff.