Surgical Safety Checklist Popularity among the surgeons? A survey
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Abstract:

Background: W.H.O has introduced a surgical safety checklist as part of its Safe Surgery Saves Lives initiative. The checklist’s purpose was to reduce surgical complications that resulted from inadequate safety practices and promote greater communication among surgery teams. It is made necessary to use the surgical safety checklist in the operation theatres across the world but is it really used in the actual practical setup? Material & Methods: With that idea in mind we had conducted a study to know about the awareness and practical use of surgical safety checklist among surgeons attending Haryana Chapter of Association of Surgeons in India Conference (HASICON) 2014 in there surgical practice. Printed performa with a set of questions was given to the delegates and the result was analysed. Result: Only 57% of the study group had heard about the safety checklist and only 32% of them are using it in their surgical practice. Conclusion: There is an urgent need to spread awareness about the safety checklist and one way of achieving it is by demonstration papers in conferences across the world.

Keywords: Checklist; Safe surgery; Safety culture
## Awareness of W.H.O safety checklist among the delegates attending

### HASICON 2014

- **Personal Information**
  1) Name (optional)  
  2) Age/Sex  
  3) Working Place

  Med. Col./Dis. Hos./P.H.C./Pri. Hos./Others

  4) Present Designation

  JR/PG/ SR /A.P/ Assoc./ Prof./ Jr. Cons./ Sr. Cons.

  5) Surgical experience

  - <5yr  
  - 5-10  
  - >10

  6) Contact

  - Mobile  
  - e-MAIL

- Are you aware of the W.H.O safety checklist?
  - Yes  
  - No

  i) If Yes source of your information?

  1) Conference/C.M.E  
  2) PG Presentation  
  3) Journal  
  4) Colleague  
  5) Others

  ii) Level of information?

  a) When W.H.O launched the program?

  ________________________________

  b) Which hospital was selected in India for study?

  ________________________________

  c) What was the outcome of the study?

  Morbidity decrease
  - <30%
  - 30-50%
  - 50-70%
  - >70%

  Mortality decrease
  - <30%
  - 30-50%
  - 50-70%
  - >70%

- Are you using surgical safety checklist in your routine practice?
  - Yes  
  - No

- **Type of use?**

  1) Strict  
  2) Casual  
  3) Occasional  
  4) No use

- Kindly mention your own result in respect to use of surgical safety checklist?

  1) Excellent  
  2) Good  
  3) Satisfactory  
  4) Burden

- Those who are not aware of checklist or don’t use it want to get information or start using it?

  - Yes  
  - No

- If No, do you want that the doctor whom u are getting treatment from should be using surgical safety checklist?

  - Yes  
  - No

- Are you aware that not using surgical safety checklist has got medico legal implication?

  - Yes  
  - No

- Do you feel that such exercise should be mandatory in health practice?

  - Yes  
  - No

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Figure 1 showing the printed performa with questionnaire given to the delegates attending HASICON 2014
Exclusion Criteria:
1. Delegates those were not willing for participation was excluded.
The study was conducted during the conference HASICON 2014. Printed performa’s were distributed to all the delegates after acquiring consent from the delegates to participate. The performa contained set of questions pertaining to the surgical safety checklist which the delegates had to answer. Those delegates refusing to participate were excluded. The sample performa is given in figure 1. All the performas were collected and analysis was conducted. After the collection and analysis of the performas on the 2nd day of the conference an audiovisual presentation was made discussing the results of the questionnaire and creating awareness about the surgical safety checklist and a copy of W.H.O surgical safety checklist was given to all delegates figure 2.

Figure 2. W.H.O surgical safety checklist

Results:
A total of 165 delegates attended the conference out of which 142 (86%) were included & 23 (14%) delegates refused to participate figure 3. 81 (57%) out of 142 were aware about the surgical safety checklist while 61 (43%) had not heard of it figure 4. Even the delegates who were aware couldn’t answer the questions given in the performa with only a single delegate able to answer all the questions giving the impression that those who were aware of the checklist only heard of it. 115 (81%) of 142 delegates wanted to know about the checklist how it works again emphasizing the lack of knowledge and use of the particular topic among the delegates. 97 (68%) of the 142 delegates were found to be not using the surgical checklist in their practice mostly including surgeons who have not heard much about the topic figure 5. A final question was asked should the doctor you getting operated by be using checklist. Survey relieved as many as 111 (78%) of 142 delegates giving answer as yes showing the belief in the fact that this tool can decrease avoidable errors.

Discussion:
W.H.O introduced a surgical safety checklist as part of its Safe Surgery Saves Lives initiative. The checklist’s purpose was to reduce surgical complications that resulted from inadequate safety practices and promote greater communication among surgery teams. The use of surgical safety checklist showed reduction in complications from 11 to 7%
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Use of safety checklist involves both changes in systems and changes in the behaviour of the individual surgical teams. Use of the W.H.O surgical safety checklist has been associated with a significant reduction in major postoperative complications after surgery. In our study we had tried to analyse the awareness status about the safety checklist in our region. Unfortunately the majority of the surgeons in our study were found not to be aware properly about the checklist and are currently not using the checklist in their practice. We have tried to make them aware of it via an audiovisual presentation in the conference. Further such studies should be conducted to evaluate the scenario in other regions as well.

Conclusion:
The study clearly depicts the need to increase awareness of this safety initiative. The level of knowledge among the surgeons needs to be strengthened for the sake of patient’s safety. One way of achieving it is by giving live demonstration lectures at various conferences an initiative like that started by us.

References: