Evaluation of teamwork in operating rooms in a Tunisian university hospital

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Background:
Teamwork is fundamental to ensuring the quality of care and patient safety in operating rooms. It has been shown that the occurrence of adverse events is closely linked to a poor quality of teamwork in these settings. Thus, this study aimed to assess teamwork in different operating rooms of the university hospital of Sahloul Sousse (Tunisia).

Methods:
It is a descriptive cross-sectional study with convenience sampling, conducted in operating rooms of the university hospital of Sahloul Sousse (Tunisia) between February and April 2018. The measuring instrument was the validated observation grid 'Communication and Teamwork Skills Assessment Tool (CATS)'. Teamwork is assessed through 4 domains (Situation awareness, Coordination, Communication, Cooperation). Behaviors are marked in rows each time they occur and are rated for quality in columns labeled ''Observed and Good,''' ''Variation in Quality'' (meaning incomplete or of variable quality), and ''Expected but not Observed.''

Results:
A total of 51 interventions were observed. Good coordination between the team members was noted, as well as good cooperation within the teams. A variation of quality level of communication with the patient was noted in 31.4% of cases, also communication about the context, the situation and recommendation among caregivers is not quite good with a percentage of 39.2%. Moreover, the work environment was rated as good in 84.3% of cases.

Conclusions:
Some failures in teamwork were noted, hence it is important to take corrective measures for better practice and better patient management in such a complex environment, the operating rooms, where there is a strong need for team coordination.

Key messages:
- There is a direct relationship between the quality of care and the effectiveness of teamwork.
- It is necessary to eliminate the barriers to communication, in order to prevent adverse events.