Aim: To complete an audit on the level of compliance to the WHO surgical safety checklist in surgical operating theatres at a tertiary hospital in India.

Method: A total of 40 surgical operations were observed at the operating theatres at a tertiary hospital to confirm the practice of the WHO surgical safety checklist which formed the prospective part of our study. The study was conducted for a period of 2 months starting from July to August 2021. The results were then compared with standard guidelines and analyzed. Interventions were carried out by a series of rigorous meetings and discussions with the medical and the nursing staff. Results were re-audited after 2 weeks.

Results: Of all the operations audited, 45% Sign-In and only 1% Sign-Out were performed in the first cycle. After the re-audit, a significant change was reported as the Sign-In improved to 80% and a 55% Sign-Out was conducted. The Time-Out was observed to increase from 15% to 65%.

Conclusion: Compliance is seen to be greater in major surgeries than in minor surgeries. Compliance with all items in the checklist and active participation by all medical and nursing staff is mandatory for successful implementation of the Surgical safety checklist.