

Wrong-side/wrong-site, wrong-procedure, and wrong-patient adverse events: are they preventable?

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/wrong-sidewrong-site-wrong-procedure-and-wrong-patient-adverse-events-are-they-preventable>

Although instances of wrong-site, wrong-procedure, and wrong-patient adverse events (WSPEs) have been widely publicized, the true incidence of such errors remains unclear. A [prior study](#) indicated a rate of approximately 1 case per 112,000 surgeries, but WSPEs may occur in the outpatient setting or in ambulatory surgery as well. In this study, the authors reviewed four databases to determine the incidence of all WSPEs, including procedures performed outside the operating room. Data from both mandatory and voluntary reporting systems indicates that approximately 1300 to 2700 WSPEs occur yearly, with many occurring during outpatient procedures. The authors argue that all WSPEs should be considered preventable, and recommend reporting and prevention standards for reducing such errors.