

Operating room briefings and wrong-site surgery.

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Makary MA, Mukherjee A, Sexton B, et al. Operating room briefings and wrong-site surgery. J Am Coll Surg. 2007;204(2):236-43.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/operating-room-briefings-and-wrong-site-surgery>

Although wrong-site surgeries are [rare](#), they have devastating consequences for patients and are often a harbinger of serious safety problems within an institution. The Joint Commission's [Universal Protocol](#) for prevention of wrong-site surgeries requires performing a "time out" before beginning surgery to ensure that all operating room personnel are familiar with the patient, the procedure, their role, and how to respond to complications. In this study, operating room personnel were surveyed regarding their perception of the risk of wrong-site surgery before and after institution of timeouts. Respondents felt teamwork improved and the overall risk for wrong-site surgery decreased after implementing the protocol. An Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) WebM&M commentary discusses the factors contributing to a near-miss wrong-site surgery.