

Effect of a comprehensive surgical safety system on patient outcomes.

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de Vries EN, Prins HA, Crolla RMPH, et al. Effect of a comprehensive surgical safety system on patient outcomes. N Engl J Med. 2010;363(20):1928-37. doi:10.1056/NEJMsa0911535.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/effect-comprehensive-surgical-safety-system-patient-outcomes>

A landmark [study](#) in patient safety demonstrated remarkable improvement in surgical outcomes through implementation of a [checklist](#) for intraoperative and perioperative care. However, inconsistencies in postoperative care are thought to contribute to persistent [variation](#) in surgical outcomes between hospitals. In this controlled study, a [comprehensive system](#) for the entire surgical pathway—from admission to discharge—was implemented at six teaching hospitals in the Netherlands, and resulted in significant reductions in both complications and overall mortality. The authors note that the success of their intervention relied as much on developing a [culture of safety](#) as on the checklist itself, a point supported by another recent [study](#) that achieved significant improvement in surgical outcomes through [teamwork training](#).