PSNet
PATIENT SAFETY NETWORK

Incorrect surgical procedures within and outside of the operating room: a follow-up report.

November 21, 2011
Neily J, Mills PD, Eldridge N, et al. Incorrect surgical procedures within and outside of the operating room: a follow-up report. Arch Surg. 2011;146(11):1235-9. doi:10.1001/archsurg.2011.171.
https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/incorrect-surgical-procedures-within-and-outside-operating-room-follow-report

This analysis of incorrect surgical procedures in the Veterans Affairs (VA) system found an overall decline in the number of reported wrong-site, wrong-patient, and wrong-procedure errors compared with the authors' prior study. As in the earlier report, half of the incorrect procedures occurred outside of the operating room. Root cause analyses of errors revealed that lack of standardization and human factors issues were major contributing factors. During the time period of this study, the VA implemented a teamwork training program that has been associated with a significant decline in surgical mortality. The authors propose that additional, focused team training may be one solution to this persistent problem.