

## Association of safety culture with surgical site infection outcomes.

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Fan CJ, Pawlik TM, Daniels T, et al. Association of safety culture with surgical site infection outcomes. J Am Coll Surg. 2016;222(2):122-128. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2015.11.008.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-safety-culture-surgical-site-infection-outcomes>

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[Safety culture](#) is widely measured and discussed, but its link to patient outcomes has not been consistently demonstrated. Surgical site infections are considered preventable adverse events. In this cross-sectional study, investigators found that better safety culture was associated with lower rates of [surgical site infections](#) after colon surgery. Specifically, aspects of safety culture associated with [teamwork](#), communication, [engaged leadership](#), and [nonpunitive response](#) to error were linked to fewer infections. Although this work does not establish a clear cause-and-effect relationship between safety culture and patient outcomes, it suggests that efforts to enhance safety culture could improve patient outcomes.