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Cornerstones of Operating Room Efficiency: Introduction of Novel All-in-one Disposable Procedure Pack for Ophthalmic Surgeries

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Introduction

Enhancing efficiency of operating theatre has been a challenging process as it requires coordination of human and material resources in a way that surgery can be performed efficiently, cost effectively, and safely. In ophthalmic operating theatre of TWEH, reusable linen packs have been used for years and more than 20 sterile consumable and hollowware items are required to use for each surgery. Increase workload on management of these items has adverse effects on operation efficiency. Further to reduce costs and manpower associated with reprocessing of reusable items, an all-in-one disposable procedure pack (ADPP) has been tailor-made and introduced to use starting from 4 May 2015.

Objectives

To evaluate the efficiency, quality and cost effectiveness of operations after implementation of ADPP

Methodology

A novel ADPP was developed which included all essential components such as drapes, hollowware, consumables and sterile labels for cataract surgeries. Various waterproof pre-printed color labels were introduced to replace simple hand-made labels. Turnover time and preparation time for operations were compared before and after implementation of ADPP. 2 sets of questionnaires were designed for nurses and surgeons to explore their perspectives towards implementation of ADPP respectively. Incidence of post-operative surgical infection was studied. Cost effectiveness of operations was reviewed

Result

Efficiency of operations was enhanced and quality was maintained after implementation of ADPP. It was found that preparation time was significantly shortened by 61.1%. Turnover time between surgeries was reduced for 1 minute from 22 minutes to 21 minutes. Quantity of sterile items required for surgery was decreased from 20 to 5. Both nurses and surgeons were satisfied with ADPP and

agreed that staff workload was reduced. No significant difference for post-operative infection rate was recorded. Annual cost for drapes and hollowware items was reduced by 73%. Pre-printed sterile labels were introduced to assure clearly identify medications, medication containers and other solutions on sterile field. ADPP would be adopted for all major surgeries to maximize cost effectiveness and operation efficiency.