

Authors: Sónia Margarida Dinis*; Maria Ramalho*; Vera Marques*; Isabel Rabiais**; Ana Alves***

Affiliation: *functions in the Plastic Surgery and Maxillofacial Operating Room at Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte, Portugal; **PhD, Professor at the Catholic University of Portugal; ***functions in the Intensive Care Unit of Hospital Dr. Nélío Mendonça, Portugal

Introduction

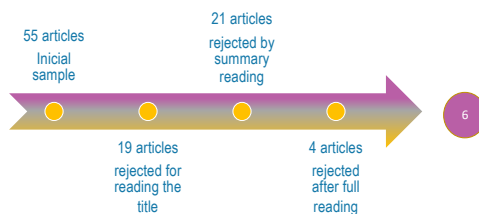
Since 1960 hospital noise levels have risen around the world. (1) Operative and invasive procedures are high-risk activities that require vigilance, concentration, and situational awareness. Distractions and noise are impossible to remove completely from the perioperative environment.(2) Elevated operating theatre noise can be hazardous to patient safety and may cause occupational stress.(3)

Purpose

The purpose of this article is to present the results of a review of the research literature on the topic of noise in the Operating Room that was conducted with the aim of identifying the current knowledge upon which new research can be built.

Methods

An systematic review of the literature by mobilising the descriptor "Noise" AND "Nurs*" AND "operating rooms", using the PI[C]OD method. Were selected ten databases imaginable, between 2006-2016, included for analysis 6 articles.

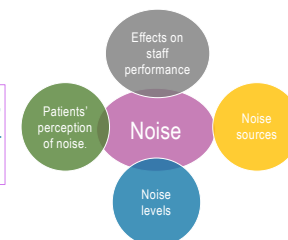


Results and Discussion:

While reviewing the articles, the following four main topics emerged:

- Study shows that most patients understand and even appreciate background music in the operating room theatre. There is nothing wrong with silence in the operating room, and as surgeons, it is paramount that our patient's care is the center of all we do.
- Music in the OR during an awake procedure has its place, but only at the patient's request, and the music should be tailored toward that patients preferences.

- In all the studies in which noise levels were measured, the noise levels were found to be considerably higher than recommended by WHO



- The noise sources are related to equipment and staff behavior.

- The main effect of noise on staff performances is related to impaired communication, resulting in a negative effect on patient safety.

Interventions to consider to improve noise levels in an Operating Room :

Preventive maintenance of powered surgical instruments can reduce noise exposures, and noise output should be considered when selecting replacement instruments. Keeping music at a low level and using hearing protection.

Conclusion:

Average and peak noise levels in operations may be implicated in patient safety because they lead to poor communication or distract and cause strain, stress and fatigue. This review establishes a base of knowledge on the topics of noise levels, noise sources, and the effect of noise on staff performances, from which new research can be built.

Bibliography:

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- (3)Ford DA. Speaking Up to Reduce Noisein the OR. AORN Journal, July 2015, Vol. 102, No. 1: 85-89