Surgical ward round quality and impact on variable patient outcomes

Pucher P, Aggarwal R, Darzi A

Philip Pucher, MD MRCS
Clinical Research Fellow / Trainee in General Surgery
Imperial College London

Background

• Variability in surgical outcomes dependent on more than surgery alone
• Ward rounds (WR) are critical process in the management of the peri-operative patient
• Complex highly skilled process
• Anecdotal variation in quality but has not previously been assessed

Methods

• Consecutive patient WRs observed on a general surgical high dependency unit
  - Post-operative or unwell patients
• WR quality rated based on previously validated approach¹
  - Technical performance (SWAT score)¹
  - Non-technical performance (W-NOTECHS)
• Incidence of AHRQ-defined preventable complications compared for patients following high or low quality WRs


Results and conclusions

• Wide degree in variation in WR quality
  - Technical score: range 9 – 91%
  - W-NOTECHS: range 16 – 25
• Increased risk of preventable complications in low quality WR cohort (p = 0.034)
  - OR (95% CI): 6.43 (1.05, 39.30)
  - Independent of ASA, age, W-NOTECHS, presentation
• WR quality represent major source of variability of care which impacts outcomes
• Interventions to improve and standardise care needed to improve patient care

Questions?

Thank you