Improving Teamwork and Communication using the Surgical Safety Checklist: A Prospective Evaluation in the Lake Zone of Tanzania.

Methods: Two correlation studies (one with a before-and-after intervention design and the other with an interrupted time series design) were conducted to assess the impact of the SSC on teamwork and communication in the OR.

Results: The SSC significantly improved teamwork and communication, as evidenced by a reduction in surgical complications and an increase in high teamwork/communication adherence. The greatest improvement was observed in the OR, where teamwork and communication were associated with a reduction in surgical complications.

Discussion and Recommendations: As part of the multi-component Safe Surgery 2020 initiative in Tanzania’s Lake Zone Region, SSC implementation has shown improvement in teamwork and communication, with a reduction in sepsis rates. Further research is needed to determine the mechanisms through which patient outcomes are improved. More research is needed in this area.