



# Safety Challenges for Patients in the Operating Room: from the Perspective of Operating Room Nurses

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** According to the World Health Organization's report "Safe Surgery Saves Lives" 3-22% of surgeries result in serious and unexpected complications. In developed countries, the mortality rate associated with surgery ranges from 0.4 to 0.8%. Many of these complications are preventable.

**Search Strategy:** The present study results from a scoping review using the Arksey and O'Malley five-stage approach, focusing on the perspective of operating room nurses regarding safety challenges for patients in the operating room from 2012 to December 2024. Data extraction was conducted by searching PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Embase databases using the keywords "Operating Room," "Nursing," and "Patient Safety." In the first stage, 5 English article abstracts were retrieved. Articles were screened in two stages. In the first stage, after reviewing the title and abstract, 25 articles for full-text access were included for further review.

**Results:** Operating room nurses identify the leading patient safety challenges as inadequate nurse-to-patient ratios, long working hours and mandatory overtime, lack of managerial support, insufficient welfare packages, neglect of safety checklists, and poor teamwork.

**Conclusion and Discussion:** Operating room nurses have identified patient vulnerability awareness, patient guidance during the surgical process, fostering a safety culture, and essential competencies for operating room nurses as key factors for enhancing patient safety in the operating room. Educating can significantly impact understanding the checklists and enhancing patient safety, so integrating simulation-based education and practical training for operating room nurses is important. Indeed, the high skills of operating room nurses directly correlate with improving patient safety; therefore, deploying unskilled nurses may lead to inefficiencies and compromise patient safety.

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