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Medical mistakes in the operating room

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Aim: Is to highlight the status of some equipments and instruments used in the operating room and the way they are used.

Introduction: Theoretically medical errors are preventable but the percentage of this prevention depends on social, financial, culture and medical circumstances presents in each country or even hospital according to the specification applied.

Materials and Methods: Atwenty two illustrated photos were selected from a pool of photos taken from operating theatre and discussion was done for each photo.

Causes: The number of anesthesiologists in the whole of Iraq 300 doctors and the number of population in Iraq 30 million so this huge difference between the number of anesthesiologists and the number of population causing great fatigue and sleep deprivation for anesthesiologists this lead to double or triple the number of preventable medical errors.

Result: Each picture showed one or more preventable mistakes by simple and easy ways.

Conclusion: Physicians, Nurse and Pharmacist should be trained to be careful and to function at a high level of proficiency to decrease level of medical errors. As there are no reports or documents to estimate medical errors in Iraqi hospitals, taking photos is a good starting point for documentation of unbelievable bad status of operating theatres. The impact of continuous violence in Iraq would affect the efficiency of operating room.

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