OpLeanAn
A model for interprofessional learning within the perioperative process

Background

OpLeanAn is a model for interprofessional learning within the perioperative process, developed at Danderyd's Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. This model trains students and new staff members in the perioperative environment, without interfering with patient outcome or surgical capacity. The idea for OpleanAn sprang from the lack of opportunities for interprofessional training within the perioperative environment. OpLeanAn has been ongoing since 2011 and has provided interprofessional training opportunities for more than one thousand participants.

Aim

Developing non-technical skills at an individual as well as at a team level in a real perioperative environment through interprofessional learning.

Method

Students and new staff members from several professions including nurse anesthetists, junior anesthesiologists, scrub nurses and junior surgeons, are invited to participate in OpLeanAn. They form an interprofessional operating team along with their supervisors. The team is gathered the day before the surgery takes place to plan, discuss and learn. The next day, two patients scheduled for inguinal hernia repair then receive perioperative care from the team, which is supported by experienced staff. The team focuses on communication, co-operation, and patient safety, developing their non-technical skills together. After the two operations are finished the team gathers for reflection. Participants also answer a questionnaire, grading their own development as well as their understanding of the roles of other professions within the team.

Results

Through questionnaires participants report an increase in understanding of other professions, the importance of communication and co-operation in the operating room as well as an enhancement of their individual skills within perioperative care.

Conclusion

OpLeanAn is an appreciated model for interprofessional learning. Participants report an increase in skills, insights and understanding of the perioperative process and the importance of teamwork and communication. Whether participants develop more long-term changes in behaviour though, is unclear.

Future

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and logistical changes at the clinic OpLeanAn faces new challenges in the future. However, the main focus still remains to promote interprofessional learning.

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