

REDUCTION OF DOOR MOVEMENTS NECESSARY TO PREVENT POST-OPERATIVE WOUND INFECTIONS

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Aim: Post-operative wound infections can largely be prevented if the correct measures in the operation room are taken. One of them is reduction of the number of door movements. Reduction of the number of persons present during surgery and the number of door movements decreases the chance of a post-operative wound infection.

Methods: During 19 operations the number of door movements were measured. No measurements on the OR were taken at that time yet, and nobody knew that the door movements were counted.

Results: The mean number of door movements during the 19 operations was 16 per hour, with a variation from 3 to 31 per hour. No difference was seen between the general surgeries and orthopedic surgeries. The lowest numbers were seen on Sunday and during congresses. Reasons for door movements were coffee breaks, discussing when to take a break, interested interns coming in to watch and (re)placing surgical instruments.

Conclusion / discussion: Reducing door movements during surgery is part of the measurements that have to be taken in a hospital to reduce post operative wound infections. Before bringing down the number of door movements, the present number of door movements needs to be registered, as well as the reasons why doors are opened. After that measurements can be taken to reduce them, such as using the telephone or intercom more, planning coffee and lunch breaks in between surgeries and a time-out procedure to check if all needed instruments are available at the OR.