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Working together in the Surgery: Success through multi-disciplinary teamwork

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Effective teams not only protect patients from risks and improve outcomes—they also create a more positive, engaging, and resilient workplace. Hospitals in which staff report higher levels of teamwork have lower rates of workplace injuries and illness, as well as lower levels of staff intent to leave the organization (Lyubovnikova et al, 2015).

The introduction of multidisciplinary rounds significantly improves quality measures for congestive heart failure and pneumonia (O'Mahony et al, 2007), decreases length of stay for trauma patients (Dutton et al. 2003). During the pandemic we regularly conducted rounds with all ward staff members and found them effective.

A simple but effective way for effective teamwork is by having breaks together and to eat together. It makes a huge difference to our ability to work together effectively. (NHS People). In the pandemic we had socially distanced breaks together on the ward.

Teamwork quality is also inversely related to the level of burnout experienced by staff (Bowers et al, 2011). Units with poor teamwork tend to have staff with higher levels of fatigue.

Observational studies in surgical services indicate that approximately 30% of team interactions include a communication failure of some type (Lingard et al, 2004) and that patients receiving care with poor teamwork are

almost five times as likely to experience complications or death (Mazzocco et al, 2009).

Conclusion:

Effective teamwork is a well validated approach for achieving success in healthcare. The pandemic highlighted and reinforced the

benefit of teamwork in the NHS. The health care system touches all of our lives, and the quality of the teamwork within that system impacts the experiences we have and the outcomes we see

Recent Publications

Malik A et al. Single-centre experience of emergency hernia surgery during COVID-19 pandemic. *Med Glas (Zenica)* 2021 Aug 1;18(2):463-467

Malik A et al. A man with suprapubic and scrotal ecchymosis. *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open.* 2021 May 1;2(3):e12431.

Seretis C, Malik A et al. Perioperative Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Peritoneal Surface Malignancies. *J Clin Med Res* 2020 Dec;12(12):773-779

Malik A et al. An elderly woman with intermittent and progressive abdominal pain. *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open.* 2021 Jul 31;2(4):e12504.

Seretis C, Malik A et al. Percutaneous Retroperitoneoscopic Drainage of Complex Extraperitoneal Abscesses Using Flexible Endoscopy: *Chirurgia (Bucur)* Nov-Dec 2020;115(6):792-797.

Biography

Adnan Malik is a surgical trainee at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust. He is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and has also completed a bachelor of medical science from the University of Nottingham in which his dissertation was on enhanced recovery of surgery. He has a keen interest in surgical academia and has published widely on a range of topics

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