How important is verification of correct site surgery marking?

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PLAN

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What is correct site surgery?

Correct site surgery is operation on the correct side of the patient and/or the correct anatomical location or level (such as correct finger on the correct hand).
Background
NPSA evidence base

The NPSA`s National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) pilot study in 28 acute NHS organisation between September 2001 and June, 2002 resulted in 44 patient safety incidents related to “wrong”

- procedure
- site,
- operating list
- consent
- patient name
- notes

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Risk Factors

- Use of abbreviations
- Lack of departmental policies
- Miscommunication among team members and the patient
- Problems relating to illegible handwriting
- Inadequate medical record review
Continuation Of Risk Factors

- Time pressure or emergencies
- Inadequate method for final confirmation of the surgical site
- Incorrect side annotated on the operating list
- Performing multiple procedure on multiple parts of a patient during a single surgical encounter
- Incorrect labelling of images, including x-rays, scans etc.
- Over reliance on the operating surgeon for determining the correct surgical site.
Effects on patients and staff

Patients
The effects on patients are devastating these are:
- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Death
Staff

This is clinical negligence. The effects on staff are devastating. These are:

- court action
- possibly losing your registration or imprisonment
- Psychological
- Social
- Financial (NMC, 2004)
Contraindication

There may be circumstances where marking may not be appropriate. Examples:

- Emergency surgery should not be delayed due to lack of preoperative marking
- Teeth and mucous membranes
- Cases of bilateral simultaneous organ surgery such as bilateral tonsillectomy, squint surgery
- Situations where the laterality of surgery needs to be confirmed following examination under anaesthesia or exploration in theatre such as revision of squint correction (Afpp, 2007).
Recommendation

- Staff awareness

- Education
Conclusion

Effective communication among multidisciplinary surgical team will lead to correct site surgery, quality patient care, quality patient life, save resources and inner joy for the multidisciplinary surgical team.
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Do not forget!
Correct site marking...Correct site surgery
THANK YOU