

Canadian Medical Education Journal
Revue canadienne de l'éducation médicale



"Teamwork makes the dream work"- interdisciplinary team dynamics within the operating room
La clé de la réussite est dans le travail d'équipe : la dynamique des équipes interdisciplinaires dans la salle d'opération

Luckshi Rajendran

Volume 13, Number 1, 2022

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1088049ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.74102>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Canadian Medical Education Journal

ISSN

1923-1202 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Rajendran, L. (2022). "Teamwork makes the dream work"- interdisciplinary team dynamics within the operating room. *Canadian Medical Education Journal / Revue canadienne de l'éducation médicale*, 13(1), 108–108.
<https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.74102>

© Luckshi Rajendran, 2022



This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/>

érudit

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

<https://www.erudit.org/en/>

"Teamwork makes the dream work"- interdisciplinary team dynamics within the operating room

La clé de la réussite est dans le travail d'équipe : la dynamique des équipes interdisciplinaires dans la salle d'opération

Luckshi Rajendran¹

¹Division of General Surgery, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Correspondence to: Luckshi Rajendra; email: luckshi.rajendran@alumni.ubc.ca

Published: March 2, 2022; CMEJ 2022, 13(1). Available at <https://doi.org/10.36834/cmej.74102> © 2022 Rajendran; licensee Synergies Partners. This is an Open Journal Systems article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License. (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.



The association between healthcare miscommunication and poor patient outcomes has been well documented in the literature.¹ Ineffective interdisciplinary team communication within healthcare can lead to misdiagnosis, delayed treatment, medication errors. This lack of communication can harm patients, with further impacts also on efficiency and costs to the healthcare system. Therefore, improving effective communication is a global priority, and one that affects patients, all members of the healthcare provider team, hospital administration, and government bodies.²

One such area where interdisciplinary communication is crucial for optimal teamwork function is within the operating room. Effective communication provides opportunity for accurate information exchange between members, which promotes efficiency and the delivery of safe patient care. Communication failures can lead to delayed cases or prolonged operating time, and preventable errors including performing the incorrect

procedure, not having correct equipment in the room, and intraoperative or post-operative morbidity or mortality. This ultimately results in greater inefficiency, procedural errors, team tension, and resource waste.

Typically, the intraoperative team includes the patient, anesthesiologist, surgeon, nurses, and trainees. In the ideal setting, effective interdisciplinary communication involves communal goals and expectations between team members, and a shared perspective of what effective collaboration entails. It is important also to recognize each team member's respective roles and objectives. This involves self-perception of one's own strengths and weaknesses within their own role, as well as awareness of others areas of expertise and contribution to the team. As our profession migrates away from the historical segregating hierarchal roles of healthcare professions and the associated professional silos, there continues to be an emphasis towards improving interdisciplinary team collaboration. The intraoperative team is a prime example where healthcare delivery is truly a team sport, succeeded by optimizing interdisciplinary communication and collaboration.

References

1. The Joint Commission. *Sentinel event Data Root causes by event type: 2004-2014*. 2015. Available at from: http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/Root_Causes_by_Event_Type_2004-2014.pdf [Accessed Feb 3, 2022]
2. Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel (IPEC). *Core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice: report of an expert panel*. Interprofessional education collaborative. Washington, D.C. 2011. Available at: <https://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/insideome/ccrpt05-10-11.pdf> [Accessed Feb 3, 2022]