

Surgical Safety and Leadership: Contributions to Healthy and Safe Work Environments

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INTRODUCTION

Surgical safety and leadership roles are fundamental to the success of healthcare institutions leading to the promotion of healthy and safe environments. It is crucial to consider the profound impact of adverse events on nurses' health, as they are often termed the “second victims”.

The concept of leadership can be defined as a multidimensional process that involves influencing a group to collectively pursue objectives aligned with a shared vision.

(Cummings et al., 2018; Sfantou et al., 2017)

Leadership in nursing is among the most critical elements for the success of healthcare organizations, with nurse managers serving as leaders of the largest workforce in healthcare organizations.

(World Health Organization, 2023)



CORE ISSUES INHERENT TO SURGICAL SAFETY



- ✓ Non-recognition of surgical safety as a public health issue
- ✓ Lack of data on surgical activity and its effects
- ✓ Good safety practices not being applied with discipline and reliability
- ✓ Promotion of communication and teamwork

(World Health Organization, 2009)

OBJECTIVES

To analyse the association between surgical safety in the operating room and leadership roles from the perspective of perioperative nurses



MATERIAL AND METHODS

- ✓ A correlational and cross-sectional study was conducted
- ✓ Data were collected online in July 2023 from a convenience sample of 88 perioperative nurses from a hospital in Northern Portugal (54,7% adherence)
- ✓ The online questionnaires included:
 - Sociodemographic and professional characterization
 - Quinn's Leadership (Parreira et al., 2006)
 - Patient Safety in the Operating Room - items related to the Surgical Safety Area (Mota, 2021)
- ✓ The study was approved by the institution's Ethics Committee and informed consent was obtained from the participants



Leadership Questionnaire by Quinn - Portuguese version adapted for the healthcare sector (Mota, 2021)

- Consisting of 32 items
- This questionnaire assesses eight roles: Mentor, Facilitator, Broker, Innovator, Monitor, Coordinator, Director, and Producer
- Responses are measured on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from "almost never" (1) to "almost always" (7)

Surgical Patient Safety Questionnaire - "Surgical Safety" Area (Mota, 2021)

- Comprising 8 items
- This questionnaire enables the harmonized and systematic assessment of patient safety policies in the operating room
- The items are evaluated on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from "never" (1) to "always" (5)

SAMPLE CHARACTERIZATION

- ✓ 81.8% female
- ✓ 69.3% cohabiting
- ✓ with an average age of 46 years and 23 years of professional experience
- ✓ 88.6% with a higher education degree
- ✓ Average of 23 years of professional experience
- ✓ 55.7% working at the Ambulatory Surgery Unit
- ✓ 44.3% working at the Central Operating Room



RESULTS

Table 1. Association between Safety Dimensions and Leadership Types, Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (*r*), and *p*-Value

Dimensions	Leadership types							
	Mentor	Facilitator	Broker	Innovator	Monitor	Coordinator	Director	Producer
Best practices	r=0.190 p=0.075	r=0.281 p=0.008	r=0.265 p=0.013	r=0.256 p=0.016	r=0.297 p=0.005	r=0.240 p=0.024	r=0.248 p=0.02	r=0.278 p=0.009
Audits	r=0.485 p<0.001	r=0.541 p<0.001	r=0.604 p<0.001	r=0.563 p<0.001	r=0.529 p<0.001	r=0.529 p<0.001	r=0.539 p<0.001	r=-0.571 p<0.001

The association between the dimension of Best Practices and various Leadership types is moderately positive ($0.25 < r < 0.5$); nurses with a higher perspective on Leadership types also have a higher perspective on Best Practices. However, a partially significant correlation was found between Best Practices and Mentor ($r=0.190$ and $p=0.075$), indicating a weak positive association.

There is a strong and positive association between the Audits dimension and Leadership types ($0.5 < r < 0.75$); nurses with a higher perspective on various Leadership types also have a higher perspective on Audits, except for Mentor, where the association is only moderately positive ($r=0.485$).

These results corroborate other studies, such as those conducted by Mota (2021), Kim et al. (2020) and Lappalainen et al. (2020).



CONCLUSION

The significant associations between surgical safety and various leadership roles emphasize the importance of reflecting and developing competencies within the perioperative context.

These results underscore the importance of raising awareness among nurse managers about this subject.

Only with such efforts can we contribute to healthier and safer work environments.

LIMITATIONS

The fact that it was a convenience sample with a cross-sectional design.



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¡Muchas gracias!



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