

European Society of Ophthalmology



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European Leadership Development Program Class of 2017-2019 Project Abstract

The European Society of Ophthalmology requests a brief abstract of the project that each EuLDP participants has worked on during the program. The compiled abstracts will be included on the SOE website and will be given to incoming EuLDP classes as background material. Please e-mail your abstract to E-mail: secretariat@soevision.org

*Please include the headings if appropriate: **Title, Purpose, Methods, Results and Conclusion***

Title of Project: Optimizing patient flow for ophthalmic surgery in general anesthesia at a tertiary health care center.

Purpose

Even well established tertiary health care centers may be prone to slow patient flow. This may be due to a lack of routines, varying staff and leadership, large size of the institution, dated or not purpose-built architecture, economic burdens or insufficient commitment of staff and leadership. Under these circumstances a seemingly simple task to improve patient flow turns out to be very challenging.

The purpose of this project was to optimize patient flow for patients scheduled for ophthalmic surgery in general anesthesia. A multidisciplinary approach was used.

Methods

Several workshops for a multidisciplinary team covering all aspects of the process were organized. Current patient flow was analyzed in detail and the results were formalized in a simple table (columns: 1. What has to be done? 2. When? 3. Where? 4. Who? 5. Time for each task?). The process was continuously optimized in theory with focus on patient safety and quality of care. Optimization resulted in exact definitions of tasks for the health care professionals involved. To implement theory into practice one type of surgery (strabismus surgery) was chosen for optimization in a smaller team.

Results

Optimizing patient flow for strabismus surgery resulted in a 50% increase of surgeries performed per day. Total costs for one minute in our operating room is 370 Swedish krona (\approx 41 \$). Operating room costs for one operation are therefore reduced from 9700 \$ to 6500 \$.

Conclusion

The project resulted in a simple and formalized approach to solve long-standing organizational challenges at a tertiary health care center. A multidisciplinary approach is important.

