Sharps Injury Prevention Program in Operating Room – “3V” Safety Caesarean Section

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Introduction
Healthcare workers in the perioperative environment have “a high risk of sustaining percutaneous injuries related to the use of sharp devices”. Sharps injuries in operating room were accounted for 47% among Injury on Duty (IOD) in 2014, which caused physical injury and pain, created psychological anxiety and increased our staff’s sick leave. The most frequently implicated devices in sharps injuries identified by the report of Advanced Incident Reporting System (AIRS) in operating theatre were suture needles (52%), followed by instruments (20%) and injection needles (14%). In all these reported series, the suture needle was the most common source of sharps injury during the procedure of Caesarean Section (40%) in five years. Since the incidences are surging, the ways to engage a multidisciplinary perioperative team approach and promote a culture of safety for prevention of sharps injuries should be highly considered.

Objectives
1. To engage a multidisciplinary team to work out an evidence-based sharps injury strategy in Caesarean Section
2. To strengthen a safety culture with collaborative practice between various stakeholders to enhance clinical safety and create a healthy workplace environment

Methodology
Project Life Cycle
1. Plan
   ☐ Analyze the causes of sharp injury by the case-by-case investigation and the closer inspection the workflow
   ☐ Work with various...
stakeholders to establish an evidence-based strategy as “3V” Safety Caesarean Section, which consisted of Verification of danger zone, Visual contact, and Verbal notification. Develop the educational program, reinforce the safety culture by posting a catchy slogan in the theatre rooms, and get approval from top management. Do Execute the strategy in perioperative nurses, technical assistants, Obstetrics and Gynecology team surgeons and housemen between September and November 2014. Check Evaluate by evaluation forms to measure the effectiveness of the training course, and survey the sharps injury incident rate in the operating room related to Caesarean Section. Act Promulgated the results in operating room committee and perioperative staff meeting in order to strengthen the safety culture.

**Result**

Totally 56 data from participants were collected and analyzed. The finding indicated that 100% of the stakeholders agreed the strategy had achieved its objectives on enhancing the awareness of prevention of sharps injury, and the program was useful and practical. Regarding the sharps injury rate in the operating room, the result was very encouraging as there was no sharps injury incidence occurred in Caesarean Section. In conclusion, this achieved through collaboration among surgeons and perioperative personnel in order to create a healthy workplace environment.