Introduction
Surgical safety is one of the top priorities in patient safety. In 2009, HKEC implemented team time-out at operating theatres to ensure correct patient identification; correct site / side surgery and enhance team communication. However, there are few cases of wrong surgery in years. Therefore, an observational study on the performance of team members (i.e. surgeon, theatre nurse and anaesthetist) during the team-time out process, and an opinion survey on attitude of the theatre nurses are conducted.

Objectives
1. To evaluate Team Time-out procedure in operating theatre
2. To investigate the knowledge, behavior and attitude among theatre nurses towards Team Time-out

Methodology
Part I - Observational Study: The assessor used a checklist, which is developed basing on the standard operating procedures of the HKEC Surgical Safety, to observe the behavior of team members during the team-time out procedure of elective surgery.
Part II – Opinion Survey: A self-administration 10-point Likert scale “Surgical Safety Opinion Survey” with nine questions is developed to identify theatre nurses’ attitude, knowledge and behavior on the team-time out process.

Result
From 1 March to 30 April 2012, a total of sixty-one team-time out procedures were observed and categorized into five categories - “Borderline”, “Related”, “Invented”, “Contrary” and “Illegitimate”. In which, 6.6% (n=4) were “invented”. Three “invented” cases did not check the site marking. One case was which members conducted the procedure but did not complete the surgical safety checklist. The “Illegitimate” case (n=1, 1.16%) was that not all team members were fully participated during the procedure. 41 out of 61 opinion survey questionnaires were returned with a response rate 67.2%. All participants (n=41, 100%) agreed the team-time out procedure could
improve patient safety. 95% (n=38) participants agreed the surgical safety checklist was easy to use and 81% (n=33) indicated the checklist was comprehensive enough to improved teamwork. 37 participants (91.2%) revealed they fully understand the items on the checklist. Over 90% participants responded they feel comfortable to remind team members to carry out team time-out. However, around 70% participants pointed out that not all team members could present in the team time-out process.