



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Submitting author: Ms Yin Ling WONG

Post title: Ward Manager, Prince of Wales Hospital, NTEC

Surgical Safety: Safe Design, Clear Communication and Documentation of Changing Intraocular Lens (IOL) decision during Cataract Surgery

Tsang C(1), Ko Y L(1), Wong Y L (1), Tong A(1), Young A(1)

(1) Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, NTEC Cluster

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Introduction

Sentinel events concerning wrong intraocular lens (IOL) implantation resulting in refractive surprise have been reported in HA hospital. We should be alert on correct IOL implantation. In our current practice, IOL prescription will be written down before surgery. However, if there is any complication, changes in IOL decision is required urgently by verbal order as surgeon is unable to give any clear documentation during surgery. Theatre nurse will open the new IOL upon surgeon's verbal order after checking. In this distracted and stressful situation, there is high risk of communication error occurs in between surgeon & circulating nurse, wrong IOL may be resulted due to miscommunication. Besides, there is no clear documentation for the changed IOL decision, which may result in potential medical legal claims if there is any refractive surprise after operation. As such, a safe system and safe design on IOL verbal order during operation is required.

Objectives

To prevent implantation of wrong IOL as result of confusion pertaining to verbal orders

Methodology

Task force including doctors and nurses is form to review IOL safety issue. We adopt principle of NTEC verbal medication orders and develop a safe system and design a new form to document verbal IOL order since July 2013. After changes, surgeon's verbal order will be written down "immediately" by circulating nurse during surgery. Under this arrangement, both surgeon & theatre nurse are able to read the verbal order simultaneously and also able check the new IOL against the "written" verbal order. Upon completion of surgery, surgeon is required to countersign the verbal order to confirm correct IOL is used and changes in decision is properly documented.

Result

We started to adopt the IOL verbal order policy and changed practice since July 2013. Under the new practice, proper documentation in IOL verbal order is achieved, which is in line with NTEC verbal medication order. Besides, the new practice is welcome by both doctors and nurses as the new system can enhance IOL verbal order safety and

verbal order can be communicated and clarified effectively and accurately. Proper documentation on ad hoc changes of IOL during surgeon can be ensured.