Developing an Educational Module on Situational Leadership During Intraoperative Crisis: A Delphi Analysis

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The critical nature of an intraoperative crisis requires quick responses through the coordination of an interdisciplinary team in the operating room. With the use of situational leadership, the skillsets of individuals can be organized to maintain patient safety. Cognitive aids are another tool that can be incorporated during an intraoperative crisis to reduce stress and human error. The purpose of this project is to create a module outline to be used to provide education on how anesthesia providers can improve situational leadership skills during an intraoperative crisis while using the operating room (OR) crisis checklists. This project aims to ensure proper yearly anesthesia training via an educational module on situational leadership to maintain patient safety and improve clinical outcomes during intraoperative crises. The Iowa Model guided the development of the project. A Delphi analysis was performed amongst 10 anesthesia providers in Southern California. After two rounds of the Delphi analysis, a consensus was reached on important concepts to include in an educational module outline to improve situational leadership during an intraoperative crisis. Data analysis showed an emphasis on communication, role clarification, and alleviating cognitive burden. Delphi analysis also reinforced the use of online multimedia education and suggested the necessity of a second anesthesia provider to be using the crisis checklist. The secondary provider offloads the cognitive burden on the primary anesthesia provider that is using their situational leadership skills to manage the crisis.