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Golden Patient initiative: A systematic review

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Background: Inefficiencies in emergency theatre lists are a recognized problem across all surgical specialties. An hours delay to starting the trauma list costs a trust approximately £1486 and a delay to intervention can contribute to morbidity and mortality (Fractured neck of femur). Though multifactorial, surgical or anaesthetic pre-assessment usually performed on the day of operation is common cause for delay. The golden patient initiative aimed to counteract these inefficiencies, by identifying the first patient on the list one day prior, ensuring appropriate work up is performed. We aim to review the impact of this on theatre start times, case cancellations and overall efficacy using a Systematic approach.

Methods: A literature search using four databases - MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, and the Cochrane library identified all clinical research concerning the golden patient initiative. At least two independent authors screened articles against an eligibility criterion, using a process adapted from

the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. Data extracted included outcomes measured, follow-up period and study design. The result displayed significant heterogeneity; therefore a narrative review was conducted

Results: 13 of 73 eligible articles were included for analysis. Outcomes included Delay in theatre start time, number of case cancellations and changes to total case numbers. A 19-30 minute improvement of theatre start time was reported ($P < 0.05$), and a statistically significant decrease in case cancellations.

Conclusion: Our analysis gives promising conclusions for greater theatre efficiency with the Golden Patient Initiative, a low cost easily implementable change that can improve patient safety and savings. However at present it is largely implemented amongst local trusts, hence larger multicenter studies are required to provide conclusive evidence.

Biography

Bassil Azam is an accomplished medical professional with a developing academic background and surgical experience in orthopaedic surgery. He holds an iBSc in Surgical Science from the Royal Free Hospital (2016), an MBBS from University College London (2019), and completed his MRCS in 2020. With a PG diploma in clinical education (2022), Azam is skilled in training and mentoring aspiring medical professionals. He completed his foundation training at Queens Hospital Romford and Barts Health NHS Trust and currently serves as a Core Surgical Trainee in Trauma and Orthopaedics at Tunbridge Wells Hospital. Azam's dedication to patient care and continuous professional growth sets him apart in the field of surgical science.

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