Is the double booked surgeon a thing of the past?

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Outline

- Story telling
- Politics
- Literature
- Conclusions

Story

February 10, 2014
23-year-old Talia Goldenberg

Story

February 11, 2014
“patient better”

Current Events

February 10, 2017

Disclosures

None
Current Events
February 10, 2017

“hospital touts star surgeons to draw patients from hundreds of miles...those doctors sometimes do little in the OR...Instead, the less-experienced doctors receiving specialized training...handle parts of the surgery...this allow the primary surgeon to be in another operating room. It is not prohibited, but can test the limits of Medicare rules.”

Current Events
February 10, 2017

- Internal complaints about the impact of running 3 rooms
- anonymous whistle blower reporting to the State department of health a variety of concerns about the NSI, including fellows performing surgeries unsupervised

Current Events
February 18, 2014

letter addressed to Talia arrives asking her to complete a survey about the care she received at Swedish.

“Dr. Delashaw has since been promoted to the Chairman of Neurosurgery.”

Current Events

Swedish CEO resigns in wake of Seattle Times investigation

Swedish double-booked its surgeries, and the patients didn’t know
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Whistle-blower files suit over alleged double-booked surgeries

Providence CEO Ed Hochman apologizes for troubles at Swedish

Experts in medical journal call for curing “abuses” in overlapping surgeries

Politics - December 2015

CLASH IN THE NAME OF CARE

ACS guidelines – April 2016

Statement to clarify terms
• Concurrent: critical portions at the same time
• Overlapping: critical portions have NO overlap
• “Immediately Available” – pager or electronic system up to individual hospital to define
• Patient should be informed of overlapping operation or any absence
Politics

Senate Finance Committee Investigation

- “New issue brought to light by 2015 Boston Globe article”
- “queries to CMS, HHS, AHRQ and the usual outlets”
- CMS Medicare Conditions of Participation (COP) makes no mention of concurrent or overlapping surgery

CMS guidelines:

- when practitioners whose scope of practice requires direct supervision of a surgeon...the supervising surgeon is present in the same room working with the same patient

Committee concerns

- Patient Safety
  - comply with ACS standards
  - formally identify critical portion
  - consent process to include clear disclosure of overlapping surgery
  - identify backup surgeon
  - mechanism for compliance and enforcement
- Improper Payments
  - review current controls
  - expand to non-teaching physicians and cases

Senate Finance Committee Investigation

Section 100.1.2 Medicare Claims Processing Manual:

- critical portions of two surgeries by the same teaching surgeon may not overlap
- teaching surgeon must be physically present during all critical or key portions and immediately available throughout
- if circumstances prevent immediate availability, a replacement must be available

The Literature

One scientific reference in Senate Report

2014 American Association for Thoracic Surgery annual meeting podium presentation
- 1700 cardiac and 1800 thoracic cases over 2 years
- complications, LOS, mortality no different
- Never published
The Literature

Safety of Overlapping Surgery at a High-volume Referral Center

Joseph A. Flachs MD, PhD,1 Arlette T. Hanner, MD,1 Francis C. Beswer, MD,1 Ami Grisari, MD,1 Benjamin D. Hailey, MD,1 Michael L. Brown, MD,2 Jeri J. Kern MD,2 ASC1, Robert A. Cote, MD,2 MD,2 ASC1, and Elisabeth A. Phebrows, PhD,1,2

The Literature

Concurrent bariatric operations and association with perioperative outcomes: registry based cohort study

Brett B. Lo,1,2 Abhishek A. Jan,1,2 Luanna K. Bajekal,1,2 Matthew M. Nutter,1,2 Christopher N. Huffman,1,2

The Literature

Overlapping Surgeries Are Not Associated With Worse Patient Outcomes: Retrospective Multivariate Analysis of 14 872 Neurosurgical Cases Performed at a Single Institution

Larissa Sweeney, MD1,2, Eileen L. Rosenthal, MD2, Tyler Licht2, Jessica Grayson, MD1, Daniel Patoris, DMD, MD1, Scott M. Troxel, MD1, Benjamin J. Greenaw, MD1, William R. Carroll, MD3, and Mark K. Wax, MD2

The Literature

Overlapping Surgeries Are Not Associated With Worse Patient Outcomes: Retrospective Multivariate Analysis of 14 872 Neurosurgical Cases Performed at a Single Institution

Brett A. Poern, MD1, Bradley M. Venn, MD1, Harleen K. Herlas, RS1, Samuel R. Wenzel, BS1, Aninta C. Barrows, RC1, Shanita E. Watene, MD1, Loye W. Bae, MD1, Jorge L. Perez, MD1, and Gerald McGinnis, MD, PhD1

The Literature

Impact of a more restrictive overlapping surgery policy: an analysis of pre- and postimplementation complication rates, resident involvement, and surgical wait times at a high-volume neurosurgical department

Jian Guan, MD, Michael Kerey, MD, PhD, Andree A. Brock, MD, MSc, William T. Coudwell, MD, PhD, John R. W. Kestle, MD, Randy L. Jensen, MD, PhD, Andrew T. Bailey, MD, and Richard H. Schmidt, MD, PhD

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- institutional oversight
- ongoing research
- public education
- sound surgeon judgment

References


