

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN PERIANESTHESIA RESEARCH

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The definition of interdisciplinary collaboration is “an effective interpersonal process that facilitates the achievement of goals that cannot be reached when individual professionals act on their own”. Interdisciplinary collaboration in healthcare emphasizes an increased responsiveness of services to population needs and better service integration and coordination. This results in efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and quality improvement for the healthcare system.

In our perioperative research committee, it was decided the process of keeping every tonsillectomy for 6 hours was outdated, cost prohibitive, and unnecessary. A literature review showed there was no evidence to support a practice change. To produce evidence, our perioperative research committee developed a protocol for a study. The chair of the ENT department was contacted and arrangements were made for us to present at the ENT section meeting. The entire ENT physician group agreed to support our project. An interdisciplinary research team was formed to include two nurse educators, a staff nurse, a nursing professor, an ENT resident and a faculty physician. The ENT resident took an active role with our descriptive pilot study, which examined the use of clinical indicators as discharge criteria, when patients met the clinical indicators, and the types and number of complications that occurred during the normal progression of general anesthesia and surgical complications following a tonsillectomy.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is beneficial to the research process. It fosters multiple points of view and increases participant security because physicians are involved. Interdisciplinary collaboration furthers perianesthesia nursing by strengthening the relationship among all members of the healthcare team.