

Engaging Robotic Care Teams Across the Perioperative Continuum

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Engaging Employees in Robotic Surgery Across the Perioperative Care Continuum

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Behavioral Objectives

1. Recognize educational needs for single site surgery
2. Identify items utilized for robotic surgery
3. Plan educational experiences for equipment and how it relates to the patient and outcomes

Problem Statement

An active robotic surgical service at a Level One Trauma Center was preparing to remain competitive in the surrounding market by adding the single-site gallbladder procedure to their repertoire.

Rationale

With the onset of the procedure, the nursing component of the program wanted to ensure adequate competency and familiarity with robotics across the Perioperative Care Continuum.



Methodology

To accomplish their goal, the managers within the perianesthesia and OR environments partnered to develop an action plan for nurses in these settings. The Robotic Manager gained knowledge through experience at an Epicenter currently performing single-site gallbladder procedures. She communicated her learning with the OR team specifically trained in robotic surgery. Mock procedures were created in a simulation environment to further create single-site surgery competencies for the team members. After establishing a knowledge base within the intraoperative team, the management then turned their focus onto educating the perianesthesia units. Supplies required during the procedure were presented to these staff members in an effort to expose them to the surgical procedure. Through these interactions, additional interest in viewing actual procedures was gained. Management set up observations for each staff member to allow additional insight into caring for the patients both preoperatively and postoperatively.

Results

As a result of the comprehensive education and involvement of all teams, the entire perioperative care continuum was prepared for the addition of the single-site gallbladder procedure. The employees involved immersed themselves in the care of the robotic patient, which resulted in an enhanced knowledge base. The additional effort placed by the management to create a collaborative approach to training has also enriched the interdisciplinary team which provides optimal patient care.

Conclusions

When growing an already successful robotics program, attention must be expanded to include collaboration between all units caring for the patient. Involvement amongst staff is key to a highly engaged and functional team.

