

# Perioperative interruptions lead to miscommunication

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(HealthDay) -- The number of miscommunications that occur during surgery is inversely associated with the length of time a team has worked together, and positively associated with the number of interruptions during surgery, according to a study published in the May issue of the *AORN Journal*.

Brigid M. Gillespie, Ph.D., R.N., of Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia, and colleagues conducted an observational study involving 160 surgical procedures in 10 specialties conducted over a six-month period to assess the correlation between interruptions, team familiarity, and miscommunications during surgery. Interruptions were classified as conversational or procedural, and miscommunications were classified

according to type: audience, purpose, occasion, content, or experience.

The researchers found that the length of time that a team had worked together was significantly and inversely associated with the number of miscommunications (P

"These results may help to inform the development of evidence-based interventions designed to mitigate the effects of miscommunications in [surgery](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [doi:10.1016/j.aorn.2012.02.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2012.02.012)

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