

# Surgical checklists cut post-op complications

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(HealthDay)—Surgical checklists reduce postoperative complications but have no significant effect on mortality, according to a review published in the June issue of *Anesthesiology*.

Brigid M. Gillespie, Ph.D., R.N., from Griffith University in Gold Coast, Australia, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to identify studies evaluating the impact of surgical checklists on complication rates.

Seven cohort studies (37,339 patients) were included in meta-analyses. The researchers found that use of checklists led to a reduction in any complication (risk ratio [RR], 0.63; P blood loss (RR, 0.56; P = 0.0001; NNT, 33), compared to standard practice. Mortality (P = 0.191), pneumonia (P = 0.857), and unplanned return to the operating room (P =

0.068) were not reduced with checklists.

"Notwithstanding the lack of [randomized controlled trials](#), our synthesis of the existing body of evidence suggests a relationship between checklist use in surgery and fewer [postoperative complications](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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