

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the amount of impact that anesthesia related occurrences have on operating room start time delays with first surgical cases of the day. The study was conducted at a 365-bed acute care, community-based medical center, located in a northwestern Pennsylvania city. The study was conducted in a quantitative, retrospective manner and reviewed 2,460 first scheduled surgical cases from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. Empirical data were obtained from the operating room database regarding start times and codes for the reason for the delay, therefore, no consent was required. No protected health information or identifying data were collected, further ensuring patient confidentiality. A data collection sheet developed specifically for this study included a description of the delay, delay code, frequency, and percentage of each delay. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results indicated that the primary and secondary causes for delays were "surgeon related" and "pre op related". "Anesthesia related" causes ranked third among seven major causes of OR start time delays,