Summary of Sevdalis et al. (2008) article and Bevea (2007) article

Disruptions and Distractions in the OR

What the articles tell us

- Distractions do occur in the OR, and in significant numbers. For example, Healey et al. (2006) counted 1 to 39 events of distraction per procedure with an average of 13.56 times per procedure.
- External distractions are present in all OR’s and can be identified. The Sevdalis et al. (2008) article compiled a list of OR distractions in a Disruptions in Surgery Index (DiSI).
- Major sources of distraction and interruption include, but are not limited to: Beepers going off, equipment problems, irrelevant conversations, and people walking in and out.
- OR staff and staff personnel think that others are more affected by distractions than themselves.
- Surgeons reported significantly fewer disruptions than nurses or anesthetists.

How this applies to teaching in the OR

- Teaching could be a distraction itself
- Distractions and interruptions can disrupt the teaching-learning process
- Think about…
  - What distractions/interruptions occur in your OR?
  - How do distraction/interruptions happen?
  - How do you succeed in teaching?
  - Do distractions/interruptions cause you to teach less?
  - How do you manage (minimize) distractions?

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