

Safety culture among health workers in pediatric operating rooms, Athens, Greece: an assessment through Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ)

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Objectives

We aimed at applying the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) [1] in order to assess safety culture in operating rooms at Greek children's hospitals.

Methods

Operating room professionals working at children's hospitals (n=3) in Athens, Greece were invited to self-complete the SAQ between May and June 2018.

- The 30-item Greek version [2] of the SAQ consisted of six domains: "teamwork climate", "safety climate", "job satisfaction", "stress recognition", "perceptions of management", "working conditions".
- The respondents rated their agreement with each item using the following 5-point Likert scale (1, disagree strongly; 2, disagree slightly; 3, neutral; 4, agree slightly; 5, agree strongly).
- Subsequently, the scale was converted to a 0 to 100 scale, such that disagree strongly becomes 0, disagree slightly becomes 25, neutral becomes 50, agree slightly becomes 75, and agree strongly becomes 100.

Ethical issues were addressed.

Results

- Out of a total of 252 operating room professionals, 181 (72%) fully completed the SAQ.
- Their median age was 47; their median work experience in pediatric operating rooms was 14 years.
- Cronbach's alpha was excellent of 0.87.
- The results of the SAQ questionnaire are shown in Table 1.

Conclusion

To our best knowledge, this the first study to evaluate safety culture in Greek pediatric operating rooms. SAQ proved to be a reliable tool for measuring safety culture in the aforementioned settings.

- In this study, operating room health professionals seemed to be highly satisfied with their job and considered that safety climate at workplace was satisfactory.
- However, they displayed a very poor attitude towards management.

This highlighted the need for a leadership that would implement organizational change in order to improve safety culture in children's hospitals operating rooms.

Table 1. The overall results of the SAQ questionnaire

SAQ	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Interpretation
Teamwork climate	66	18	13	100	Moderate
Safety climate	61	18	4	100	Satisfactory
Job satisfaction	72	19	15	100	High
Stress recognition	61	25	0	100	Raised
Perceptions of management	48	21	0	100	Very Poor
Working conditions	61	20	13	100	Satisfactory

SD: standard deviation

References

- [1] Sexton JB et al. BMC Health Serv Res 2006; 6: 44
 [2] Raftopoulos V et al. BMC Health Serv Res 2011. 11: 238