

## QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

## Association of intraoperative anaesthesia handovers with patient morbidity and mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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### Abstract

**Background:** Handover of anaesthesia patient care during surgery is common; however, its association with patient outcome is unclear. This systematic review aimed to assess the impact of anaesthesia handover during surgery on patient outcome.

**Methods:** All prospective and retrospective clinical studies specifically investigating the association of intraoperative transfer of anaesthesia care between anaesthesia providers in the operating room with patient morbidity and mortality were included. Searches were conducted from inception to April 24, 2019 in Medline, Medline in Process, CINAHL, and Embase. Reference lists of included studies were searched. Studies were assessed for eligibility and data were extracted by independent reviewers in duplicate with disagreements resolved by consensus or a third reviewer. Risk of bias was assessed in duplicate using the National Institutes of Health Quality Assessment Tool for Observational Cohort and Cross-Sectional Studies. Data were summarised narratively given substantial heterogeneity. An exploratory meta-analysis was conducted using a random-effects model for a subset of comparable studies.

**Results:** Eight studies met the inclusion criteria. Six studies focused on patients as the unit of analysis ( $n_{\text{patients}}=605\ 678$ ) and two focused on anaesthesia providers as the unit of analysis ( $n_{\text{providers}}=307$ ). Seven studies identified a relationship between anaesthesia handovers and adverse patient outcomes, whereas one suggested that handover may be beneficial to error detection or rectification. Included studies were of fair or good quality. Meta-analysis of four studies found a 40% increased risk of patients experiencing an adverse event when an anaesthesia handover occurs during the procedure (pooled risk ratio=1.40; 95% confidence interval, 1.19 to 1.65;  $P<0.001$ ;  $I^2=98\%$ ).

**Conclusions:** Intraoperative anaesthesia handovers generally increase morbidity and mortality for surgical patients but could have the potential to improve safety in certain contexts. Future research should determine the specific handover characteristics that impact safety.

**Keywords:** anaesthesia; medical errors; operating rooms; patient care team; patient handoff; patient safety; quality

### Editor's key points

- The authors performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate the effect of intraoperative anaesthesia handover on patient morbidity and mortality.

- Handovers were found largely to increase morbidity and mortality, although one study suggested that handover may be beneficial to error detection or rectification.
- Future research should determine specific handover characteristics that affect patient outcomes.

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Communication errors have been identified by the Joint Commission as a leading factor in anaesthesia-related sentinel events.<sup>1</sup> These errors may occur during intraoperative anaesthesia handovers, in which the outgoing clinician must transfer all necessary information for continued safe anaesthesia care to the incoming clinician within a complex, dynamic, and distracting environment.<sup>2–4</sup>

It is possible that the lack of transfer of relevant and important information about patient care can compromise patient safety.<sup>3–6</sup> At the same time, handover may be an opportunity to correct errors and optimise patient care while mitigating fatigue on healthcare professionals.<sup>7,8</sup> Given how common anaesthesia handover is, and the estimated high proportion of suboptimal handover practices,<sup>9,10</sup> it is important to precisely quantify its association with patient outcomes. This systematic review aimed to fill this knowledge gap in order to inform future research and practice.

## Methods

This systematic review followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA).<sup>11</sup> The protocol was published in PROSPERO (CRD42018110120).

### Eligibility criteria

All prospective or retrospective quantitative clinical studies specifically investigating the association of *intraoperative* anaesthesia handovers with patient morbidity or mortality outcomes were eligible for screening. To be included, the handover had to specifically involve transfer of care between anaesthesia providers during a surgical procedure – in other words, providing intraoperative relief or transferring patient care to an incoming anaesthesia provider.<sup>10</sup> Anaesthesia provider was defined as any healthcare professional with specific training in anaesthesia, such as physician anaesthetists, postgraduate trainees (residents and fellows), and nurse anaesthetists or anaesthesia assistants. Studies could include patients of any age undergoing any type of surgical procedure requiring anaesthesia. This includes 'diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of conditions or disease processes by any instruments causing localised alteration or transportation of live human tissue, [such as] lasers, ultrasound, ionising radiation, scalpels, probes, and needles'.<sup>12</sup> Date and language restrictions were not applied to the search, although data were extracted only from papers published in English or French. Letters, commentaries, editorials, opinion pieces, and abstracts were excluded.

### Search strategy

The search strategy (Supplementary Appendix 1) was designed in collaboration with an information specialist (AD). As per Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS) guidelines, a second trained information scientist subsequently reviewed the strategy.<sup>13</sup> Searches were conducted from inception to April 24, 2019 in the electronic databases Medline, Medline in Process (via OVID), CINAHL, and Embase (via OVID). Reference lists of included studies and relevant systematic reviews were also searched.

### Study selection

Independent reviewers (SL, FM, IT) screened articles for inclusion in duplicate using a web-based systematic review software, DistillerSR (Evidence Partners, Ottawa, Canada). Consensus or consultation with a third reviewer (HD, NE) was used to resolve disagreements. Titles and abstracts were assessed for eligibility followed by the full texts of those determined to be eligible.

### Data extraction

DistillerSR (Evidence Partners, Ottawa, Canada) was used by independent reviewers (SL, FM, IT) to extract information in duplicate, with disagreements resolved via consensus or a third reviewer as needed. Information extracted included: publication details (e.g. author first name, year of study, country of data collection), study design (e.g. observational vs interventional, retrospective vs prospective, method for assessing handovers, sample size), inclusion criteria, exclusion criteria, participant demographic data, patient outcome measures, clinical context (e.g. type of surgery, elective vs crisis situation), intervention details (e.g. handover strategy/tool name and type [e.g. electronic reminder, checklist, protocol], definition of handover, implementation strategy), descriptive characteristics of handovers (e.g. frequency, error rate, associations with other variables).

### Risk of bias

Risk of bias was determined using the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Quality Assessment Tool for Observational Cohort and Cross-Sectional Studies.<sup>14</sup> Reviewers assessed risk of bias independently and in duplicate, using consensus or third reviewer consultation to resolve disagreements (HD, NE).

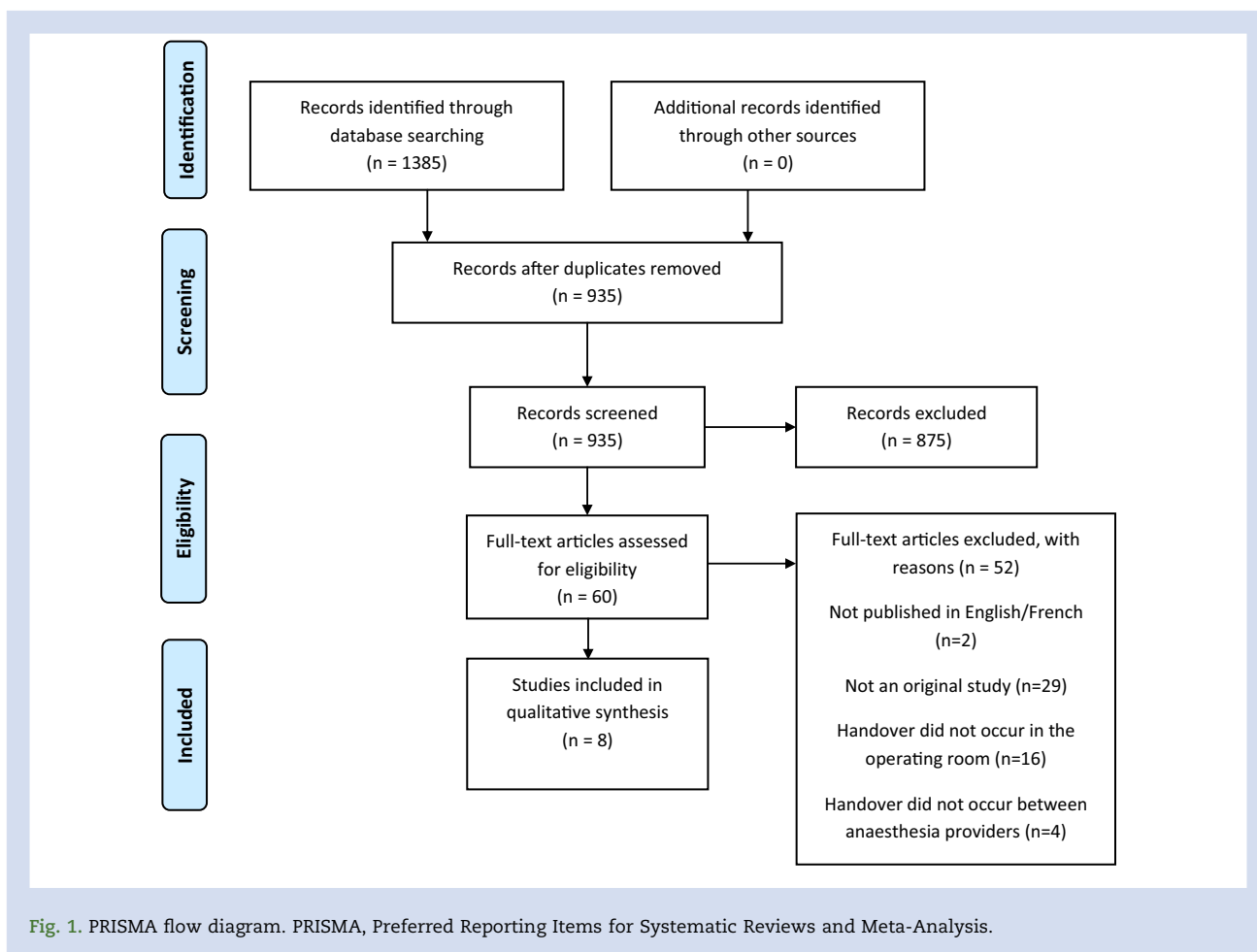
### Data synthesis

We conducted a narrative synthesis of results with specific qualitative and quantitative information from each study summarised in tables. We also conducted a *post-hoc* exploratory meta-analysis to quantify the effect of handover on patient outcome for a subset of comparable studies. The meta-analysis was conducted using a random-effects model with Review Manager 5.0 (Cochrane Collaboration, London, UK). Effect estimates of dichotomous outcomes were presented as risk ratios (RR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI). Statistical heterogeneity was assessed using the  $I^2$  statistic.<sup>15</sup> Where data were not available, the original authors of the study were contacted. For studies reporting handovers as continuous, events were summed into a single category of 'handover' compared with no (zero) handovers.

## Results

### Study selection

The literature search identified 1385 studies. After removal of duplicates, 935 studies were screened at the title and abstract stage for eligibility, with 875 not meeting the inclusion criteria and subsequently excluded. Of the 60 articles proceeding to full-text screening, 52 were excluded (two were not published in English/French; 29 were not an original study; 16 did not involve an intraoperative handover). Eight studies were ultimately included for data extraction (Fig 1).



### Characteristics of included studies

Among the eight studies meeting the inclusion criteria, six studies focused on patients as the unit of analysis ( $n_{\text{patients}}=605\ 678$ ) and two studies focused on anaesthesia providers as the unit of analysis ( $n_{\text{providers}}=307$ ). Studies typically defined handover as a transfer of care between anaesthesia providers and collected data on handovers using an electronic documentation system, for example using a billing code.<sup>3</sup> Each of the eight studies involved transfer of care between physician anaesthetists. Trainees and nurse anaesthetists were included in four studies (50%). Anaesthesia handovers were assessed across a variety of surgeries, including both cardiac and noncardiac procedures. All but one study<sup>16</sup> were conducted between 2014 and 2019. Data collection only occurred in high income countries with the USA being the most frequent country represented ( $n=5$ ; 63%). Characteristics of included studies are detailed in [Table 1](#).

### Association of anaesthesia handovers with patient outcome

Details on the association between anaesthesia handovers and patient outcome are also shown in [Table 1](#). In five of the six (83%) studies collecting data from databases,<sup>3–6,16</sup> anaesthesia handover was associated with increased risk of an adverse patient outcome. Specifically, handover was associated with greater risk of in-hospital mortality,<sup>4,5</sup> major

morbidity,<sup>4,5</sup> postoperative complications,<sup>3,6,16</sup> all-cause mortality at 30 days,<sup>3</sup> admission to ICU,<sup>3</sup> length of stay,<sup>3</sup> extended postoperative ventilation,<sup>3</sup> wound dehiscence,<sup>3</sup> bleeding,<sup>3</sup> pneumonia,<sup>3</sup> unplanned return to OR,<sup>3</sup> new onset haemodialysis,<sup>3</sup> and postoperative delirium.<sup>17</sup> A list of confounders accounted for by each of these studies is provided in [Supplementary Appendix 2](#).

The remaining two studies involved surveys or interviews with anaesthesia providers. Of the providers surveyed by Choromanski and colleagues,<sup>9</sup> 93% reported patient complications or mismanagement because of poor or incomplete handovers. Cooper and colleagues<sup>16</sup> interviewed 91 providers regarding 1089 reports of preventable errors and failures associated with anaesthesia management. Nearly 10% ( $n=96$ ) of these reports involved a relief anaesthetist. Of these 96 reports, the relief anaesthetist discovered an error or the cause of an error in approximately 30% of cases ( $n=28$ ). No negative patient outcomes were reported as caused by a relieving anaesthetist.

### Exploratory meta-analysis

Data from four studies reporting the effect of handover on a composite outcome of mortality and morbidity were evaluated.<sup>3,6,18,19</sup> The remaining four studies included in this review did not have a comparable outcome or study design to include in the analysis.

**Table 1** Study characteristics and results (n=8). \*Quality was assessed using the NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Observational Cohort and Cross-sectional Studies. NR, not reported; N/A, not applicable; aRD, adjusted risk difference; OR, odds, ratio; CI, confidence interval.

First author, year, country	Number of patients or providers (type involved in handover)	Study design Type of surgical procedure	Outcome, timing, primary or secondary	Results	Quality assessment*
Choromanski, 2014, USA	216 providers (staff, resident and nurse anaesthetists)	Online survey NR	Situations with insufficient information received during handover, N/A, NR Experience of complications or mismanagement because of poor/incomplete handovers, N/A, NR	49.1% had no handover protocol at their institution. 88% of respondents who did have institutional handover protocols believed them insufficient for effective patient handover. 84.8% reported situations where there was insufficient information received during a patient handover. 7% reported never experiencing complications or mismanagement because of poor or incomplete handovers. 60% reported rarely having complications, 31% reported sometimes having complications, and 3% reported frequent complications.	Fair
Cooper, 1982, USA	91 providers (staff, resident and nurse anaesthetists)	Qualitative interviews NR	1. Error discovered by relief anaesthetist, N/A, NR 2. Cause of error discovered by relief anaesthetist, N/A, NR 3. Negative patient outcomes (e.g. death, cardiac arrest, extended ICU stay), N/A, NR	1. 96 of 1089 (8.8%) reports of preventable errors and failures associated with anaesthesia management involved a relief anaesthetist. 2. Relief anaesthetist discovered an error or the cause of an error in 28 out of 96 (29.2%). Incidents. 3. No negative patient outcomes caused by a relieving anaesthetist.	Fair
Hudson, 2015, Canada	14 421 patients (staff anaesthetists)	Single-centre retrospective cohort study Cardiac	1. Mortality, in-hospital, primary 2. Composite index of postoperative complications, in-hospital, secondary 3. Perioperative MI, in-hospital, secondary 4. CVA, in-hospital, secondary 5. Acute kidney failure requiring haemodialysis, in-hospital, secondary 6. Ventilation postoperatively for longer than 48 hours, in-hospital, secondary	1. 5.4% in handover group; 4.0% in non-handover group (P=0.04). 2. 8.5% in handover group; 15.6% in non-handover group (P=0.02). 3. 1.9% in handover group; 2.9% in non-handover group (P=0.10). 4. 3.3% in handover group; 1.6% in non-handover group (P=0.0008). 5. 4.3% in handover group; 3.5% in non-handover group (P=0.25). 6. 16.7% in handover group; 13.3% in non-handover group (P=0.007).	Good
Hyder, 2016, USA	927 patients (staff anaesthetists)	Single-centre retrospective cohort study Colorectal	Major complication, death, or both, 30 days, primary	Number of attending anaesthetists associated with increased odds of postoperative complication: unadjusted odds ratio (OR) = 1.52, 95% CI 1.18–1.96,	Fair

Continued

Table 1 Continued

First author, year, country	Number of patients or providers (type involved in handover)	Study design Type of surgical procedure	Outcome, timing, primary or secondary	Results	Quality assessment*
Jones, 2018, Canada	313 066 patients (staff anaesthetists)	Population-based retrospective cohort study Multiple (bariatric, cardiac, colorectal, general, neurology, gynaecology, thoracic, urology, vascular)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Composite of all-cause death, hospital readmission and major postoperative complications, 30 days, primary</li> <li>2. All-cause death, 30 days, primary</li> <li>3. Major complications, 30 days, primary</li> <li>4. Readmission to hospital, 30 days, primary</li> <li>5. Admission to ICU, in-hospital, secondary</li> <li>6. Length of stay, in-hospital, secondary</li> <li>7. ED visits, &lt;90 days after index surgery, secondary</li> <li>8. Any ED visit, &lt;90 days after index surgery, secondary</li> <li>9. Postoperative ventilation for 48 or more hours</li> <li>10. Wound dehiscence, NR, secondary</li> <li>11. Bleeding, NR, secondary</li> <li>12. Pneumonia, NR, secondary</li> <li>13. Unplanned return to operating room, NR, secondary</li> <li>14. New onset atrial fibrillation or flutter, NR, secondary</li> <li>15. New onset haemodialysis, NR, secondary</li> <li>16. Myocardial infarction, NR, secondary</li> <li>17. Acute kidney injury, NR, secondary</li> <li>18. Cardiac arrest or other life-threatening postoperative incident</li> <li>19. Shock</li> <li>20. Stroke</li> <li>21. Sepsis</li> <li>22. Pulmonary embolism</li> <li>23. Deep venous thrombosis</li> <li>24. Coma</li> </ol>	<p>P=0.0013; adjusted OR = 1.44, 95% CI 1.09–1.91, P=0.0106.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Positive association: aRD=6.8%; 95% CI, 4.5%–9.1%; P&lt;0.001</li> <li>2. Positive association: aRD=1.2%; 95% CI, 0.5%–2%; P=0.002</li> <li>3. Positive association: aRD=5.8%; 95% CI 3.6%–7.9%; P&lt;0.001.</li> <li>4. No association: aRD=1.2%; 95% CI, –0.3%–2.7%; P=0.11</li> <li>5. Positive association: aRD=3.7%; 95% CI, 1.7%–5.8%; P&lt;0.001</li> <li>6. Positive association: aRD=1.2%; 95% CI, 0.7%–1.7%; P&lt;0.001</li> <li>7. No association: aRD=0.03; 95% CI, –0.03%–0.09%; P=0.36</li> <li>8. No association: aRD=–0.2%; 95% CI, –2.5%–2.1%; P=0.86</li> <li>9. Positive association: aRD=1.9%; 95% CI, 0.2%–3.6%; P=0.03</li> <li>10. Positive association: aRD=2.9%; 95% CI, 1.8%–4.1%; P&lt;0.001</li> <li>11. Positive association: aRD=2.5%; 95% CI, 1.4 to 3.6; P&lt;0.001)</li> <li>12. Positive association: aRD=0.7%; 95% CI, 0.1%–1.2%; P=0.02</li> <li>13. Positive association: aRD=1.8%; 95% CI, 0.6%–3.0%; P=0.004</li> <li>14. No association: aRD=0.3%; 95% CI, –0.2%–0.8%; P=0.29</li> <li>15. Positive association: aRD=0.8%; 95% CI, 0.3%–1.3%; P=0.002</li> <li>16. No association: aRD=0.4%; 95% CI, –0.2%–0.9%; P=0.21</li> <li>17. No association: aRD=0.2%; 95% CI, –0.1%–0.5%; P=0.22</li> <li>18. No association: aRD=0.04%; 95% CI, –0.2%–0.2%; P=0.66</li> <li>19. No association: aRD=0.1%; 95% CI, –0.1%–0.4%; P=0.31</li> <li>20. No association: aRD=0.2%; 95% CI, –0.1%–0.4%; P=0.16</li> <li>21. No association: aRD=0.08%; 95% CI, –0.1 to –0.2%; P=0.31</li> <li>22. No association: aRD=0.2%; 95% CI, –0.2%–0.5%, P=0.29</li> <li>23. No association: aRD=0.04%; 95% CI, –0.1%–0.2%; P=0.56</li> </ol>	Good

Continued

Table 1 Continued

First author, year, country	Number of patients or providers (type involved in handover)	Study design Type of surgical procedure	Outcome, timing, primary or secondary	Results	Quality assessment*
Saager, 2014, USA	135 810 patients (staff, resident and nurse anaesthetists)	Single-centre retrospective cohort study Noncardiac	Collapsed composite (any vs none): mortality and major morbidity	24. No association: aRD=0.05%; 95% CI, -0.01%–0.1%; P=0.13 Positive association: OR=1.08 (95% CI, 1.05 to 1.10) for an increase of 1 number of handovers, P<0.001	Fair
Liu, 2019, China	700 patients (staff anaesthetists)	Secondary analysis of database from previous clinical trial Noncardiac	1. Delirium, 7 days, primary 2. Non-delirium complications, 30 days, primary 3. Length of stay in hospital after surgery, postoperative, primary	1. Positive association: OR=1.787; 95% CI, 1.012–3.155; P=0.046 2. Positive association: OR; 95% CI, NR; P=0.003 3. Positive association: OR; 95% CI, NR; P=0.001	Good
Terekhov, 2016, USA	140 754 patients (staff, resident and nurse anaesthetists)	Single-centre retrospective cohort study NR	Collapsed composite (any vs none): mortality and six major morbidities considered either life-threatening or potentially resulting in permanent functional disability. Morbidities included serious cardiac, respiratory, gastrointestinal, urinary, bleeding, and infectious complications based on secondary diagnosis codes in addition to the primary diagnosis, in-hospital, primary	The number of anaesthesia handovers was not found to be associated (P=0.19) with increased odds of postoperative mortality and serious complications, as measured by the collapsed composite.	Good

Two of the four studies in the meta-analysis reported the same composite outcome of in-hospital mortality and six major morbidities (cardiac, respiratory, gastrointestinal, urinary, bleeding, and infections complications).<sup>18,19</sup> The other two studies reported on death and major complications within 30 days of surgery.<sup>3,6</sup> Although all studies used a retrospective cohort design, three were single-centre<sup>6,18,19</sup> and one was population-based.<sup>3</sup>

Results of the meta-analysis are summarised in Fig 2. Overall, there is a 40% increased risk of patients experiencing an adverse event when an anaesthesia handover occurs during the procedure (pooled RR=1.40; 95% CI, 1.19 to 1.65;  $P < 0.001$ ;  $I^2 = 98\%$ ).

**Risk of bias**

The included studies were evaluated using the NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Observational Cohort and Cross-Sectional Studies.<sup>4-6,9,15-17</sup> The overall quality rating was ‘good’ for four of the studies<sup>3,5,16,17</sup> and ‘fair’ for the other four studies.<sup>4,6,9,15</sup> Ratings are included in Table 1.

**Discussion**

This systematic review identified eight studies assessing the impact of anaesthesia handovers on patient morbidity and mortality. Seven of the studies identified a negative relationship between anaesthesia handovers and adverse patient outcomes, whereas one study suggested handover may be beneficial for error detection or rectification. Overall, this review suggests that anaesthesia handover is most often associated with patient harm, although it could have the potential to increase safety in some contexts.

Given how common anaesthesia handover is, it may be surprising that so few studies have been conducted to explore its impact on patient outcome. The relative recency of the studies identified by this review suggests there is increasing concern with the implications of intraoperative anaesthesia handovers for surgical patient safety. The limited number of studies may be attributable to the many logistical and methodological challenges associated with obtaining clinical intraoperative data.<sup>10</sup> Major adverse events in the OR are rare, requiring a large sample size for sufficient power to detect associations, often making it necessary to rely on retrospective databases. In addition, cases with one or more handovers are typically long and complex, with many potentially confounding factors. It is difficult to capture all of this information with retrospective data or in-person observation. However, with the emergence of new audio–video recording

technologies, such as the OR Black Box® (Surgical Safety Technologies, Toronto, Ontario),<sup>20</sup> it may be possible for future multicentre studies to prospectively assess intraoperative anaesthesia handovers and investigate their relationship with process of care and near-misses with comprehensive, high-quality data. Similar to black boxes in aviation, the OR Black Box® captures video, audio, environmental, and physiological data. These data are analysed by expert raters and sophisticated artificial intelligence systems to provide a comprehensive surgical timeline, which makes it possible to identify the complete series of events leading to patient harm.<sup>21,22</sup>

Despite study design limitations (e.g. retrospective accounts, lack of RCTs, self-reported experience), the reported associations between anaesthesia handovers and adverse patient safety are compelling given the large patient sample size ( $n = 605\,678$ ) and low risk of bias across studies. In addition, our exploratory meta-analysis revealed an increased risk of morbidity, mortality, or both when handover occurred.

Although most studies included in this review concluded that anaesthesia handover was associated with patient harm, one of the qualitative studies by Cooper and colleagues<sup>16</sup> suggests that anaesthesia handovers can actually benefit patients in that it provides an opportunity for the incoming anaesthetist to identify and correct errors. Altogether, this suggests that there may be some specific handover characteristics (e.g. quantity, type of providers involved, quality) that make handover safe or unsafe. It is also important to note that breaks during long shifts may play a role in mitigating the risks of fatigue among anaesthesia providers. This, again, highlights the need to better understand what makes a good quality handover between providers in order to support both provider well-being and patient safety. The studies included in this review primarily indicated only whether a handover took place, rather than a description of specific characteristics of the handover. There remains no clear definition as to how to define an effective or ‘good quality’ handover. Most studies documented whether a handover occurred drawing on billing codes within electronic anaesthesia management systems. Objective tools for assessing handovers quality were not used by any study, suggesting a need to develop an anaesthesia handover assessment tool. This could promote standardised handover measurement across studies to enhance our understanding of current practice and better inform intervention development.<sup>23</sup>

**Strengths and limitations**

Results of our study should be interpreted with caution given that these studies are based on observational data and

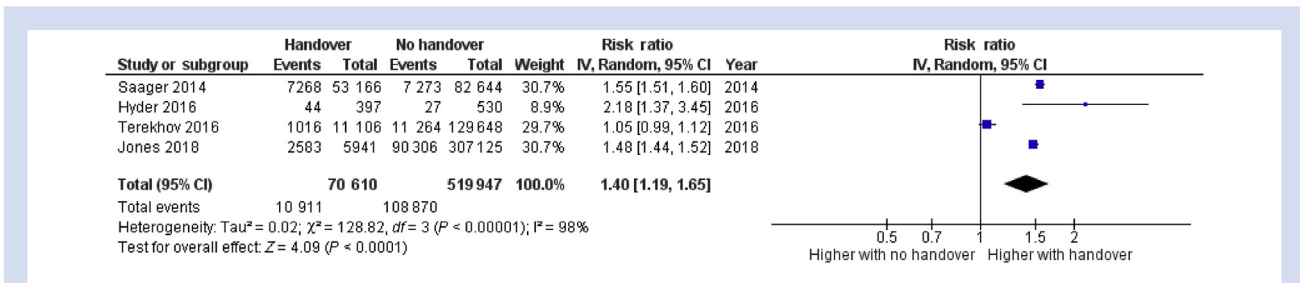


Fig. 2. Descriptive forest plot of handover effect on composite morbidity and mortality outcome. CI, confidence interval.

involved diverse types of surgical procedures. Furthermore, there was inconsistent data collection and outcome definitions across studies, and the characteristics of handover in each study were unclear. Substantial heterogeneity was also observed, supporting the need for future standardised measurement and data collection along with more rigorous study designs. There were also a limited number of studies included in the meta-analysis (four).

The strength of this systematic review is that it addresses a very common intraoperative clinical situation with a likely significant impact on patient outcome. Our work shows that anaesthesia handover is associated with patient harm, with most studies finding a negative impact on patient outcome.

Further research is warranted as there is a limited number of studies investigating anaesthesia handovers and variations in design and methodology. It would be helpful to identify specific characteristics of handover that influence patient outcome across different clinical contexts (e.g. surgical specialty, type of anaesthesia, elective vs crisis situation, academic vs community centre). Future studies should also determine under which circumstances handovers benefit or threaten patient safety and whether it is handover quantity, quality, or both that matters most for patient outcomes. Once the key aspects of effective anaesthesia handover are established, specific policies and procedures can then be developed and implemented.

## Conclusions

Intraoperative anaesthesia handovers generally increase morbidity and mortality for surgical patients but could have the potential to improve safety in certain contexts. More research is needed to determine the specific handover characteristics that make a difference for patient safety in order to better inform policy and practice.

## Authors' contributions

Study design: SB, NE

Analysis: SB, NE

Data interpretation: SB, HD, NE

Coordination of data collection: HD

Data acquisition: SL, IT, FM, NE

Drafting of the article: SB, HD, NE

Revision of the manuscript for intellectual content; SB, HD, SL, IT, HD

All authors approved of the version to be published.

## Declarations of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bja.2020.05.062>.

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