Managerial Decision-Making

This talk includes many similar slides

- Paging through produces animation
- Use right/ left arrow keys, \rightarrow and \leftarrow
- PDF viewers
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 - Presentation: Preferences, Full Screen, No Transition

Updated 05/22/25

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Using Technology to Help Anesthesiologists with Managerial Decisions

Franklin Dexter, MD PhD FASA Director, Division of Management Consulting Professor, Department of Anesthesia University of Iowa Franklin-Dexter@UIowa.edu www.FranklinDexter.net

Financial Disclosure

- I am employed by the University of Iowa, in part, to consult and analyze data for hospitals, anesthesia groups, and companies
- Department of Anesthesia bills for my time, and the income is used to fund our research
 - I receive no funds personally other than my salary and allowable expense reimbursements from the University of Iowa, and have tenure with no incentive program
 - I own no healthcare stocks (other than indirectly through mutual funds)

Financial Disclosure

- Lecture includes several of the 8 educational studies performed to improve my course
 - Operations research for surgical services
 - 50-hour analytics course, 35 hours CME credit
 - Given 72 times over 20 years
- Course participants and organizations paid University for me to teach this material



Scope of Talk

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Strategies for Net Cost Reductions with the Expanded Role and Expertise of Anesthesiologists in the Perioperative Surgical Home

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD, and Ruth E. Wachtel, PhD, MBA

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Anesthesia & Analgesia 2014;118:1062-71

Substantive Opportunities for Cost Reduction

- 1. Reduce unnecessary interventions that do not have potential to benefit patients
 - Use encouraged by "Choosing Wisely" campaign
 - Use related to new payment systems
 - Research additional interventions and assess their value
 - Anesthesiologists' roles are as managers (systems-based practice)
 - Director of Anesthesia Informatics
 - Preoperative Assessment Clinic Medical Director

Substantive Opportunities for Cost Reduction

- 2. Staffing & provider mix, staff scheduling, staff assignment, and case scheduling
 - Cost reduction applies principally to facilities with workdays > 8 hours (e.g., hospitals)
 - Anesthesiologists' roles are as managers (systems-based practice)
 - Director of Anesthesia Informatics
 - Operating Room Medical Director
 - In this role, anesthesiologist has other opportunities to reduce costs such as best use of expensive disposables and implants

Surveys of Anesthesiologists' Roles in Management

- Among chief anesthesiologists and head operating room nurses of public Finnish hospitals with >10 ORs, both reported ≅75% of hospitals have anesthesiologist "explicitly assigned for daily operative management of the ORs"
 - Surgeons 8% of hospitals and all respondents reported that in combination with others

Marjamaa RA, Kirvelä OA. Acta Anaesthesiol Scand 2007

Surveys of Anesthesiologists' Roles in Management

- Each of 64 faculty in anesthesia department tracked hourly activity for 2-week period
- Time commitment of faculty for managerial activities ≅126% time spent on education, ≅107% time spent on research, and 112% time spent on mandatory indirect clinical support (e.g., fire safety or medical education)

Dexter F et al. A&A Case Rep 2015



Using Technologies to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices



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Most Typical Method to Identify Evidence-Based Practice

Most Typical Method to Identify Evidence-Based Practice

Difficulties and Challenges Associated with Literature Searches in Operating Room Management, Complete with Recommendations

Ruth E. Wachtel, PhD, MBA,* and Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD*†

Anesthesia & Analgesia 2013;117:1460-79

Most Typical Method to Identify Evidence-Based Practice

- We performed a systematic literature review
- Finding
 - Most people seeking assistance with medical or computer-related issues rely on colleagues



Using Technologies to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices Meetings and Asking Colleagues



Franklin Dexter, M.D., Ph.D. Director, Division of Management Consulting Professor, Department of Anesthesia University of Iowa Franklin-Dexter@UIowa.edu www.FranklinDexter.net

 Need to know conditions when such communication results, at least on average, in evidence-based management decisions



Review of Experimental Studies in Social Psychology of Small Groups When an Optimal Choice Exists and Application to Operating Room Management Decision-Making

Andrew Prahl,* Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,† Michael T. Braun, MA,* and Lyn Van Swol, PhD†

Review of Experimental Studies in Social Psychology of Small Groups When an Optimal Choice Exists and Application to Operating Room Management Decision-Making

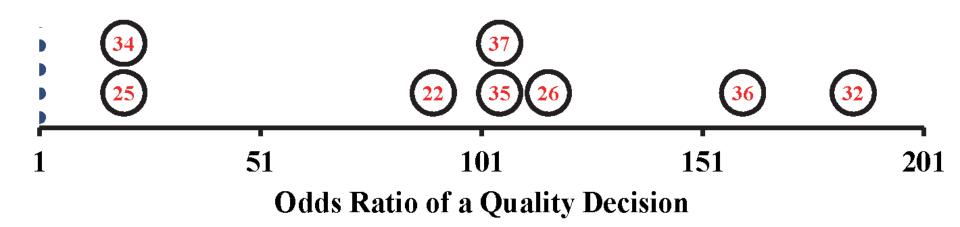
Andrew Prahl,* Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,† Michael T. Braun, MA,* and Lyn Van Swol, PhD†

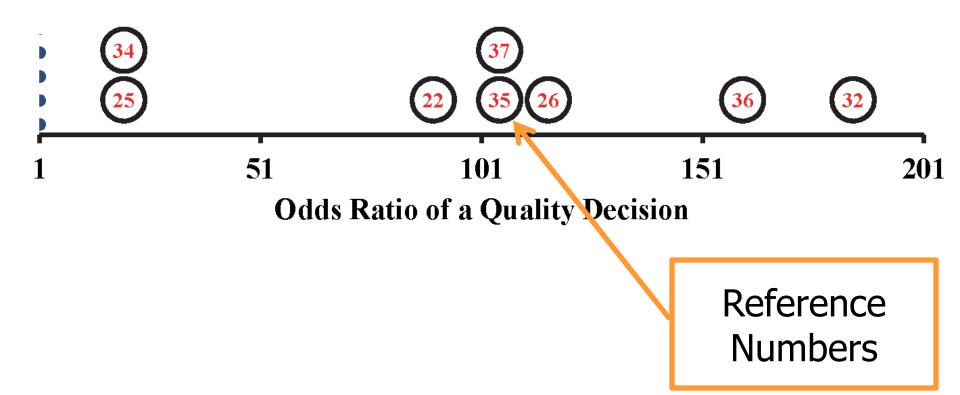
Anesthesia & Analgesia 2013;117:1221-9

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Control group

 Information needed to make correct decision provided to all members before discussion

"Real world" condition

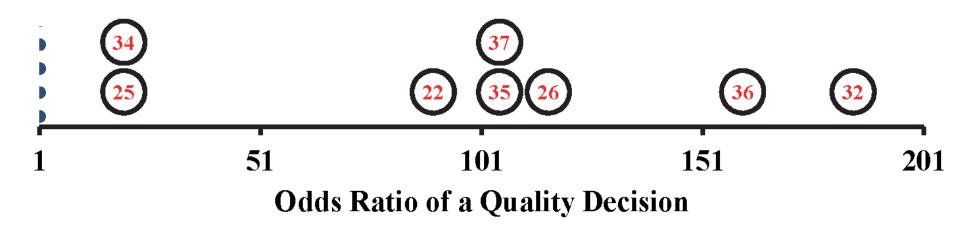
- Information to make correct decision provided to one group member ahead
- This is from managerial perspective the one person who knows the operations research, informatics, engineering, analytics, etc.



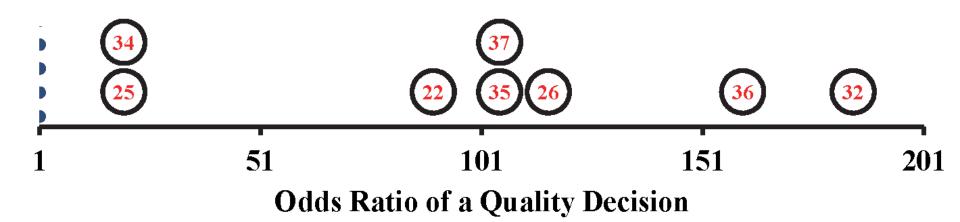
Effect size is odds ratio

- Odds ratio of 107 implies that the control group's odds of producing a correct decision was 107 times odds of "real world" group
 - Correct decision by 89% of control groups
 - Correct decision by 7% "real world" groups
 - Odds ratio 107 =
 - (89% / [100% 89%]) /
 (7% / [100% 7%])





• Minimum effect size = 18 > 0



• Minimum effect size = 18 > 0

For problems with correct answers, but fact there is a correct answer is not demonstratable without study by all participants, the odds that group will make the correct decision is very low

- Shared information is information that group members all know before group discussion
 - Example is that surgeons differ in case durations (OR times) for the same procedure
- Unshared information is known only to one group member before discussion and becomes known to others during the discussion



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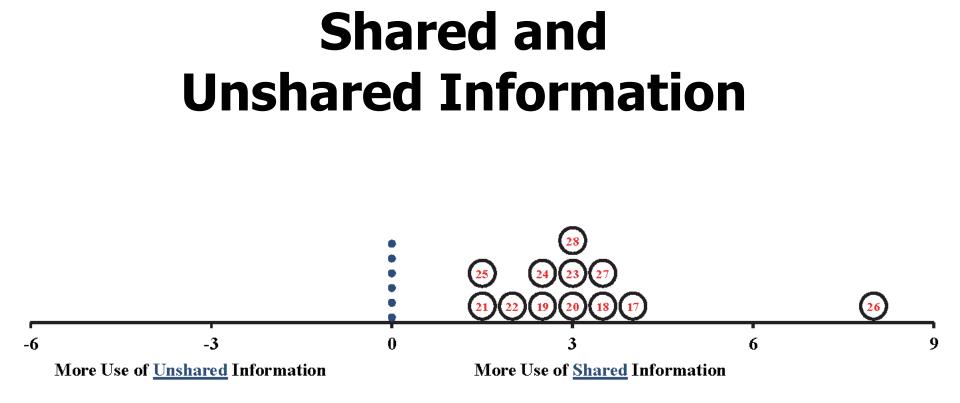
- Shared information is information that group members all know before group discussion
 - Example is that surgeons differ in case durations (OR times) for the same procedure
- Unshared information is known only to one group member before discussion and becomes known to others during the discussion
 - > Example is that extra time attributable to the primary surgeon when averaged over all cases at a hospital \cong 0.4 minutes (SE 0.1)

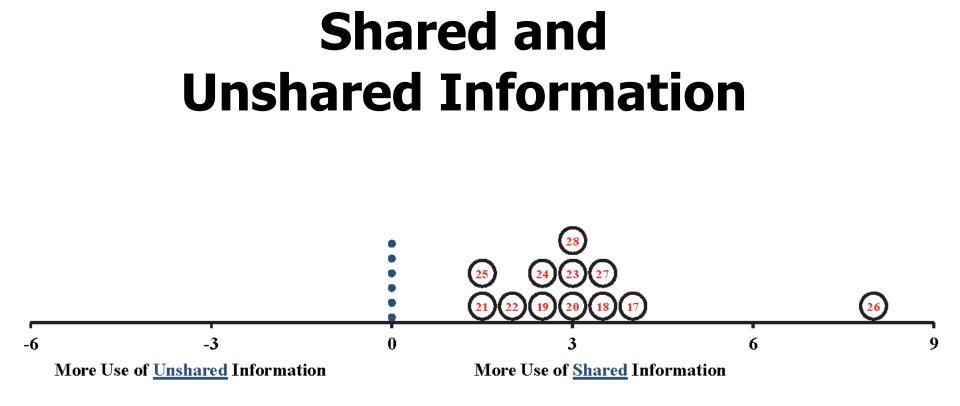
Van Eijk RPA et al. Anesth Analg 2016

Effect size is the standardized mean difference

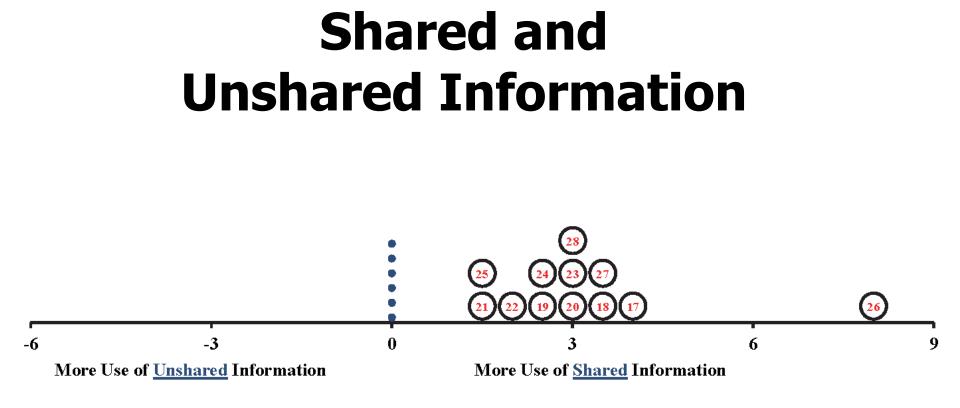
- Groups discussed mean 10.72 items of shared information versus 7.05 items unshared information, with pooled SD of 0.96 items
- Standardized mean difference is effect size
 - 3.84 = (10.72 7.05) / 0.96







• Minimum effect size = 1.25 > 0



Minimum effect size = 1.25 > 0
 Shared information is more influential during group discussions than is unshared information

- Shared information is discussed earlier than unshared information (P < 0.001).^{18,21}
- Shared information is repeated in discussion more than unshared information (P < 0.001).²⁰
- Group members with primarily shared information take more speaking turns than members with primarily unshared information (P < 0.005).³¹

Prahl A et al. Anesth Analg 2013



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- Shared information is repeated in discussion more than unshared information (P < 0.001).²⁰
- Solution Group members with primarily shared information take more speaking turns than members with primarily unshared information (P < 0.005).³¹

Prahl A et al. Anesth Analg 2013



Meetings and Asking Colleagues

 Meetings are ineffective for these problems when used for group level decision-making (i.e., consensus) or consultative type level 2 decision-making (i.e., peer discussion)

Meetings and Asking Colleagues

- Meetings are ineffective for these problems when used for group level decision-making (i.e., consensus) or consultative type level 2 decision-making (i.e., peer discussion)
 - Technologies to assist leader in obtaining solutions from outside his/her department

Using Technologies to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices Literature Search



Franklin Dexter, M.D., Ph.D. Director, Division of Management Consulting Professor, Department of Anesthesia University of Iowa Franklin-Dexter@UIowa.edu www.FranklinDexter.net

Difficulties and Challenges Associated with Literature Searches in Operating Room Management, Complete with Recommendations

Ruth E. Wachtel, PhD, MBA,* and Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD*†

Anesthesia & Analgesia 2013;117:1460-79

Literature Search Depends on Knowledge of the Vocabulary

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Experiments

 Using PubMed, could not create protocols to identify [known] article(s) with solutions to problems (decisions) without using the precise vocabulary

- Experiments explain observational studies
 - Frustration with search to find solutions arises from having to know vocabulary before search



Literature Search Depends on Knowledge of the Vocabulary

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- Experiments explain observational studies
 - Frustration with search to find solutions arises from having to know vocabulary before search
- Search is effective technological tool once one knows vocabulary and/or one relevant article



- Rank "team attributes according to what was the most important towards completing a) the problems in the course completed as a team and b) similar tasks you have worked on since the course within small teams"
 - No differences based on years earlier when the 88 respondents had taken course, 2009 to 2019

Ahn PH et al. Perioper Care Oper Room Manag 2020

- Rank "team attributes according to what was the most important towards completing a) the problems in the course completed as a team and b) similar tasks you have worked on since the course within small teams"
 - No differences based on years earlier when the 88 respondents had taken course, 2009 to 2019
 ✓ Successful needs assessment of team skills

Ahn PH et al. Perioper Care Oper Room Manag 2020

Two items significantly important (P < 0.0001)

- <u>Knowledge</u> of basic statistics, operations research, and operating room management concepts sufficient for everybody in the team taking part in discussions.
- Members in the team recognize a good contribution when one member mentions it during discussion, based on members' <u>understanding</u> of the statistics, operations research, and operating room management concepts.

- Two items significantly important (P < 0.0001)
 - Knowledge of basic statistics, operations research, and operating room management concepts sufficient for <u>everybody</u> in the team <u>taking part</u> in discussions.
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- Results from lesser scores of other items show that insufficient that participants:
 - Value and trust importance of such knowledge
 - The team members need to know it
 - Have good teamwork, building upon effective internal communication
 - Need shared knowledge of the analytics and operating room management science

Ahn PH et al. Perioper Care Oper Room Manag 2020

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 - Web site or communicate with advisor



Education in Operating Room Management

An intensive course with CME credit is given at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, at hosted sites, and online; specific dates are listed on the registration pages. The course is based on these case studies and the lectures below:

- <u>Statistics for anesthesia</u>
- Anesthesia preoperative evaluation clinics webinar
- Decision-making on the day of surgery webinar Includes scenarios to train for decisions on afternoon, evenings, and weekends
- Service-specific operating room staffing
- · Operating room financial assessment for tactical decision-making
- Economics of reducing turnover times webinar
- Economics of anesthetic agents webinar
- <u>Strategic planning: financial impact of different types of surgery</u>
- Anesthesiologist and nurse anesthetist staffing
- Physician agreements Anesthesia support & surgeon blocks
- Showing differences among hospitals and their surgical practices



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Using <u>Technologies</u> to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices (Web Sites for Vocabulary)



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E-mail as the Appropriate Method of Communication for the Decision-Maker When Soliciting Advice for an Intellective Decision Task

Andrew Prahl,* Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,† Lyn Van Swol, PhD,* Michael T. Braun, PhD,‡ and Richard H. Epstein, MD, CPHIMS§

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Anesthesia & Analgesia 2015;121:669-71

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Narrative review of technologies to communicate with advisors for engineering type problems (e.g., for use by course participants for follow-up)

- Experimental and some observational studies of the different communication technologies
 - Face to face meeting
 - Video (web) conference
 - Animated computer agents (avatars)
 - Telephone (audio)
 - Live electronic chat
 - E-mail (asynchronous 1:1 written)
 - Discussion forum (listserv, social media)



Advantages of E-mail for Communication with Advisor

- Easy to use across organizational boundaries
- Convertible to tasks (e.g., set follow-up flag)
- Asynchronous; no appointment arranged
- Absence of expectation of immediate response
- Presence of expectation of a response
 - Responsibility and reduced social loafing
- Training significantly increases productivity in use (e.g., search rather than folders)



Advantages of E-mail for Communication with Advisor

- Decision-maker can construct (frame) the message carefully to increase likelihood of receiving a useful response
- Decision-maker can read response when least distracted and reread complicated portions
- Decision-maker has reduced cognitive load vs. face-to-face, video conferencing, or avatar
 - For factual material, written text consistently easier to understand and as effective or more effective at changing behavior

Advantages of E-mail for Communication with Advisor

- Advisor can control cues to appear credible
 Titles and degrees in signature line expected
- Advisor can focus on constructing message rather than appearance of hair, color of slides
- Advisor can include attachments with details
- Advisor can include written expression(s) of confidence in advice
 - Best predictor of usage in experimental studies



E-mail ... It's so Old Fashioned; Segment Based on Use Case



E-mail ... It's so Old Fashioned; Segment Based on Use Case

- Personally relevant decision
 Subject has need for cognition
 - Subjects use brief textual advice (e.g., e-mail) no more often when include emoticons
- Not personally relevant decision Subject has low need for cognition
 - Subjects use brief textual advice (e.g., chat) more frequently when include emoticons

Duan J et al. Comput Hum Behav 2018

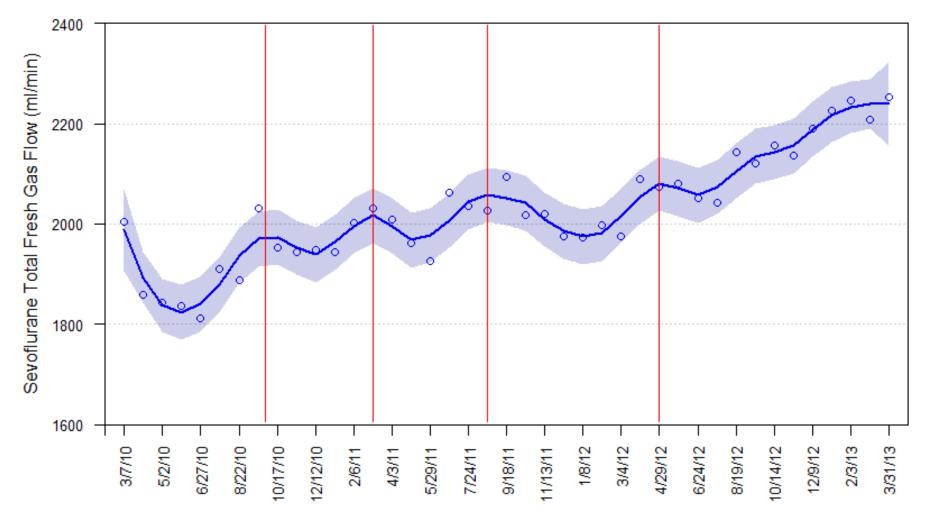
Influencing Anesthesia Provider Behavior Using Anesthesia Information Management System Data for Near Real-Time Alerts and Post Hoc Reports

Richard H. Epstein, MD,* Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,† and Neil Patel, MD‡

Anesthesia & Analgesia 2015;121:678-92

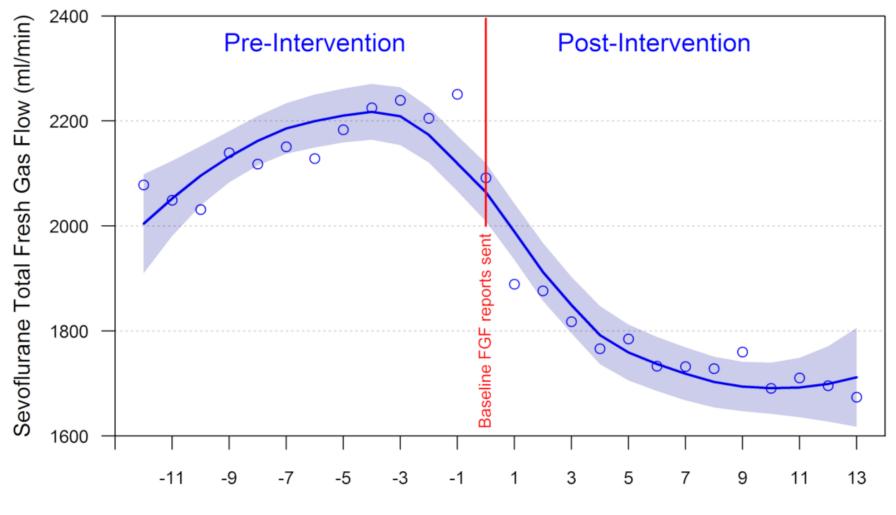
 Departmental weighted fresh gas flow for sevoflurane calculated as:
 sum for each case of product of the duration of surgery and mean fresh gas flow for the case between the beginning and end of surgery divided by the total duration among all cases





- Individualized, automated e-mail feedback to all anesthesia providers about their fresh gas flows for each case, by volatile anesthetic
 - Sent approximately monthly





4 wk intervals from baseline FGF report

- Using e-mail after case avoids concerns related to potential creation of medical device
 - Administrative function designed to enhance overall compliance with a departmental quality practice objective
 - Not effort to dictate care of individual patients



Choosing When to Send E-mail and To Whom to Send E-mail

Choosing When to Send E-mail and To Whom to Send E-mail

Bernoulli Cumulative Sum (CUSUM) Control Charts for Monitoring of Anesthesiologists' Performance in Supervising Anesthesia Residents and Nurse Anesthetists

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* Johannes Ledolter, PhD,† and Bradley J. Hindman, MD‡

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Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* Johannes Ledolter, PhD,† and Bradley J. Hindman, MD‡

Anesthesia & Analgesia 2014;119:679-85

Daily Evaluation of Anesthesiologists' Supervision

Influence of Provider Type (Nurse Anesthetist or Resident Physician), Staff Assignments, and Other Covariates on Daily Evaluations of Anesthesiologists' Quality of Supervision

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* Johannes Ledolter, PhD,† Thomas C. Smith, BS,‡ David Griffiths, BS,‡ and Bradley J. Hindman, MD‡

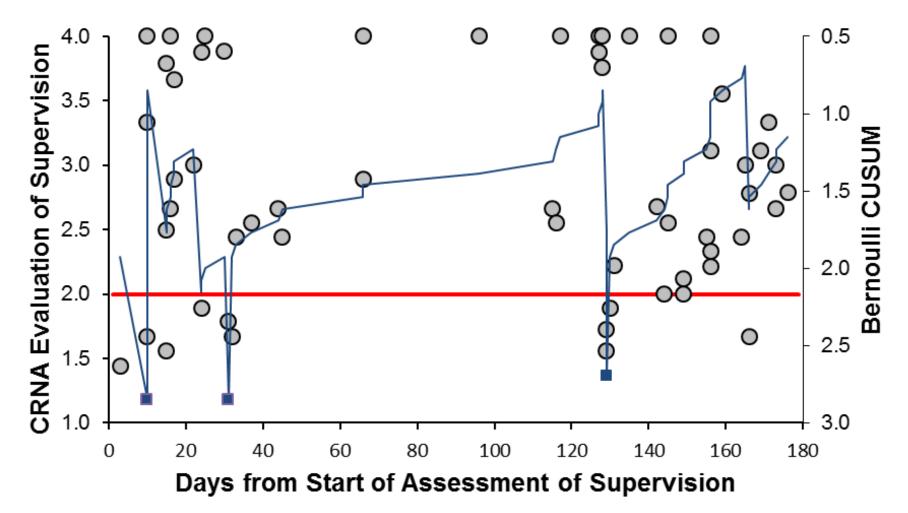
Reliability and Validity of the Anesthesiologist Supervision Instrument When Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Provide Scores

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* Danielle Masursky, PhD,† and Bradley J. Hindman, MD‡

Anesthesia & Analgesia 2014;119:670-8

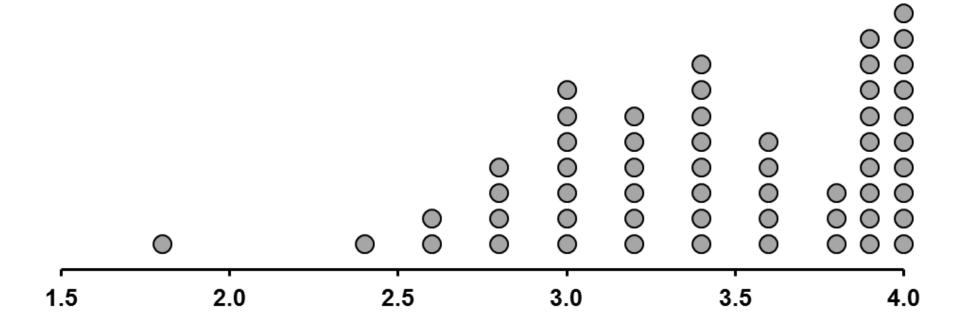
Daily Evaluation of Anesthesiologists' Supervision \bigcirc 1.5 2.0 3.0 2.5 3.5 4.0

1=never, 2=rarely, 3=frequently, 4=always For example: The faculty was promptly available to help me solve problems with patients and procedures



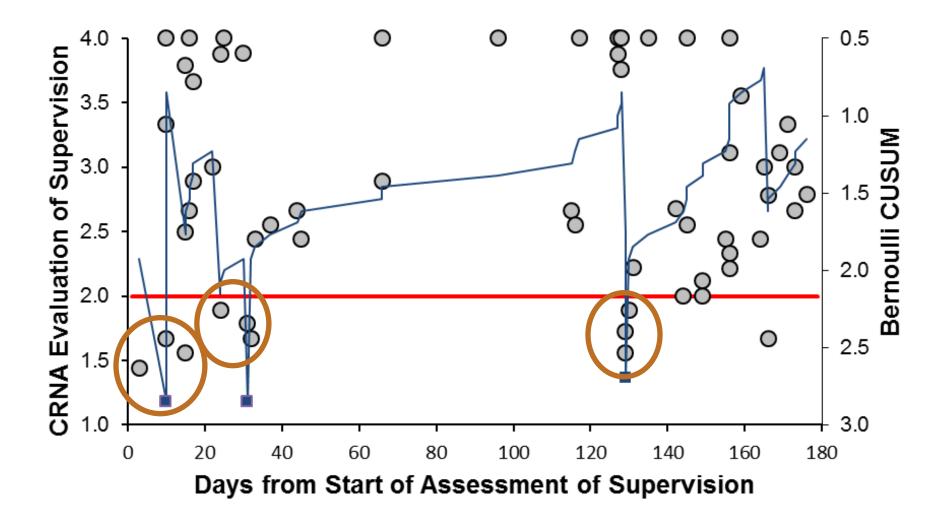
- Among upper half of anesthesiologists (29/58) based on each CRNA's equally weighted mean, only 1 of 29 was detected (flagged) during the 6 months by the Bernoulli CUSUM
 - Among the lower quartile of anesthesiologists (14/58), 13 of 14 were detected

- Among upper half of anesthesiologists (27/55) based on each resident's equally weighted mean, only 0 of 27 was detected (flagged) during the 6 months by the Bernoulli CUSUM
 - Among the lower quartile of anesthesiologists (13/55), 12 of 13 were detected



Dot plot took 180 days of data to be reliable Bernoulli CUSUM 50 (median) \pm 14 (quartile deviation) days

Do Need to Use Mathematics



Do Need to Use Mathematics

- Assumption of statistical independence
 - If no correlation among evaluations, and with p representing pooled estimate for low score, then among days with 2 evaluations, p² would be probability both scores are low
 - Among the CRNAs' 1182 evaluations on days with 2 evaluations by CRNAs, p = 5.92%
 - There were 4.34-fold more days with 2 low scores than expected at random (P < 0.0001)



Bernoulli CUSUM Workflow for Who Receives the E-mail

- If anesthesiologist works today with a resident, and this evening Bernoulli CUSUM alerts, likely the resident's evaluation indicated less than desirable supervision
- E-mail directly to the rated anesthesiologist would result in loss of confidentiality of the resident's evaluation



Bernoulli CUSUM Workflow for Who Receives the E-mail

- Bernoulli CUSUM is process for detection
- Detection prompts e-mail notification of the relevant human resources professional, not the rated anesthesiologist
- Vice Chair for Faculty Development receives e-mail with hyperlink but without identifiers
 - Logs in
 - Sees name of anesthesiologist and evaluations from past 15 different raters

Using <u>Technologies</u> to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices



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Using Technologies to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices (Web Sites for Vocabulary)



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Using Technologies to Help Clinicians Comply with Best Evidence/Best Practices

(E-mail)



Franklin Dexter, M.D., Ph.D. Director, Division of Management Consulting Professor, Department of Anesthesia University of Iowa Franklin-Dexter@UIowa.edu www.FranklinDexter.net

- E-mail can include attachments, often with the expert as one of the authors
- What type of articles should be attached?
 - Review article with text and simple figures or primary article including data?
 - With/without appendices with formulas?



Influence of Data and Formulas on Trust in Information from Journal Articles in an Operating Room Management Course

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* and Lyn M. Van Swol, PhD†

Influence of Data and Formulas on Trust in Information from Journal Articles in an Operating Room Management Course

Franklin Dexter, MD, PhD,* and Lyn M. Van Swol, PhD†

A & A Case Reports 2016;6:329-34

- OR management course took \cong 50 hours
 - 15 hours for statistics review and learning the vocabulary
 - 35 hours of class over 3.5 days
 - Mostly to work in teams and complete cases
- Within a few days of finishing the course,
 N = 17 subjects completed a 36-item survey form, with 9 items about each of 4 readings
 - Sequences of survey items fully randomized



- Example of one of the <u>4 readings</u>
 - Reading for lecture #5
 - Formulas Yes
 - Data Yes
 - 19 references
 - Citation
 - Dexter F, Ledolter J, Wachtel RE. Tactical decision-making for selective expansion of operating room resources incorporating financial criteria & uncertainty in subspecialties' future workloads. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2005;100:1425-32



- Example of one of the <u>4 readings</u>
 - Reading for lecture #4
 - Formulas No
 - Data No
 - 76 references
 - Citation
 - Wachtel RE, Dexter F. Tactical increases in OR block time for capacity planning should not be based on utilization. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2008;106:215-26



- Response scale for each of the <u>9 items</u>
 - 1, Strongly disagree
 - -2
 - -3
 - -4
 - 5
 - -6
 - -7, Strongly agree



Scale	ltem	Mean	SD	Cronbach's alpha
Quality (sequence of the 3 items randomized)				
	In general, Reading #X provides me with high quality information.	5.93	0.90	
	Overall, I would give the information from Reading #X high marks.	5.90	0.88	
	Overall, I would give the information provided by Reading #X a high rating in terms of quality.	6.01	0.84	
	Pooled	5.95	0.84	0.95

Quality of reading

Scale Item	Mean	SD	Cronbach's alpha		
Usefulness (sequence of the 3 items randomized)					
The information in Reading #X is helpful for my work.	5.51	1.23			
The information in Reading #X is valuable for my work.	5.57	1.24			
The information in Reading #X is informative for my work.	5.62	1.20			
Pooled	5.57	1.18	0.91		

Usefulness of reading

Scale Item	Mean	SD	Cronbach's alpha	
Reliability (sequence of the 3 items randomized)				
The information in Reading #X is reliable.	5.97	0.91		
Anyone trusting the information in Reading #X is helping himself/ herself.	5.94	0.90		
The information in Reading #X can be trusted; there are many certainties.	5.88	0.94		
Pooled	5.93	0.85	0.96	

Reliability of reading

- 9 item assessment of trust in the information, including quality, usefulness, and reliability

 Overall Cronbach alpha 0.94
 - 95% confidence interval 0.92 to 0.96



- 9 item assessment of trust in the information, including quality, usefulness, and reliability

 Overall Cronbach alpha 0.94
 - 95% confidence interval 0.92 to 0.96
- Quality, usefulness, and reliability are attributes of unidimensional construct: trust in the information



Mixed effects analysis of trust (9 items \times 4 articles for each of N = 17 subjects)

Effect	Numerator Degrees of freedom	Denominator Degrees of freedom	F-ratio	P- value
Data versus no data	1	49	2.159	0.148
Formula versus no formulas	1	49	10.778	0.0019

- Residuals normally distributed
- Interaction not significant
- Count of references not significant
- Journal not significant

- Residuals normally distributed
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- Journal not significant
- Formulas in appendices serve a role, even for reader who does not understand them



- Residuals normally distributed
- Interaction not significant
- Count of references not significant
- Journal not significant
- Formulas in appendices serve a role, even for reader who does not understand them
 - Cue that the article can be trusted



- Examining use of technology to help clinicians, often anesthesiologists, comply with best evidence/ practices for managerial decisions
 - Web sites for vocabulary
 - Email, particularly with the few scientific articles
- Do courses further increase trust?

Dexter F et al. J Clin Anesth 2017 Vasilopoulos T et al. J Clin Anesth 2019



Before the 1-day course and baseline survey

- Statistics review to level required for American Board of Anesthesiologists' BASIC Examination
- Read two papers on analytics to reduce how late anesthesiologists work, one with formulas, and learn the vocabulary

Dexter F et al. Anesthesiology 2004 Dexter F et al. Anesth Analg 2016



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Team analytic problem solving, discussion; 9-hr

Vasilopoulos T et al. J Clin Anesth 2019



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- Read two papers on analytics to reduce how late anesthesiologists work, one with formulas, and learn the vocabulary
- Team analytic problem solving, discussion; 9-hr
 Trust in the quality, reliability, and usefulness of the information increases, P = 0.005

Vasilopoulos T et al. J Clin Anesth 2019



- Additional material during 2nd and 3rd day of full course included understanding:
 - Methodological limitations
 - Conditions when usefulness limited
 - Lack of need for many organizations

Dexter F et al. J Clin Anesth 2017



- Additional material during 2nd and 3rd day of full course included understanding:
 - Methodological limitations
 - Conditions when usefulness limited
 - Lack of need for many organizations
- No further increase in trust in the information
 -95% confidence interval for increase
 -0.03 to +0.10 on the 1 to 7 scale, P = 0.30

Dexter F et al. J Clin Anesth 2017



Summary

- Cost reduction achieved through management
- Small groups large odds poor quality decisions
- Obtain information from outside department by literature search, once know vocabulary
 - Web site lectures and question/answers
 - Expert consultation, typically by e-mail
 - Attach articles, especially if include formulas
 - One day course increases trust in content
- Use e-mail also for quantitative feedback within department, with evidence-based analytics

Additional Information on Anesthesia Group Management

www.FranklinDexter.net/education.htm

- Example staffing reports with calculations
- Lectures on learning statistics [BASIC exam], OR allocation and staffing, PACU staffing, running preoperative clinic, reducing turnover times and late first case starts, tactical and strategic decision-making
- www.FranklinDexter.net
 - Comprehensive bibliography of peer reviewed articles in operating room and anesthesia group management