



Utilisation of Plastic Surgery Theatres in a Single UK Centre

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Abstract:

Given the average cost of a NHS operating theatre is £1,200 per hour, it is essential that optimal utilisation is achieved. There are no standard guidelines for plastic surgery theatre utilisation. UK governmental institutions have suggested that operating departments should aim for 90% utilisation but there has been little research to validate the target of 90%. In 2018, the NHS Benchmarking Network's Operating Theatres project suggested a minimum of 83% utilisation should be achieved by general surgery theatres. In this study, the database 'Opera' was accessed to retrospectively analyse plastic surgery theatre times. Theatre utilisation was calculated as a percentage of total scheduled theatre time used by operative time. This audit aimed to assess the utilisation of plastic surgery theatres in one NHS hospital. In this study, the overall theatre utilisation was 83%.