



## Original Article

# Safety climate in the operating room: Translation, validation and application of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire



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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Safety climate assessment is increasingly recognized as an important factor in healthcare quality improvement, especially in operating rooms (OR). One of the most commonly used and rigorously validated tools to measure safety culture is the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ). This study presents the validation of the Operating Room Version of the SAQ (SAQ-OR) for use in Portuguese Hospitals. The psychometric properties of the translated questionnaire are also presented.

**Methods:** The original English version of the SAQ-OR was translated and adapted to the Portuguese setting by forward-backward translation method and applied in a central public hospital. Scale psychometrics were analyzed using Cronbach's alpha and inter-correlations among the scales.

**Results:** The internal consistency test yielded values around 0.9 for all 73 items. The CFA and its goodness-of-fit indices (SRMR 0.05, RMSEA 0.002, CFI 0.90) showed an acceptable model fit. Inter-correlations between the factors safety climate, teamwork climate, job satisfaction, perceptions of management, and working conditions showed moderate correlation with each other. 82 valid questionnaires were analyzed revealing significant differences in communication ratings between different jobs, mainly between surgeons (4.2) and between nurses and surgeons (2.9). Working conditions and job satisfaction have the highest score with 3.8 and 3.5, respectively, and perceptions of management have the lowest score (2.8). **Conclusion:** The Portuguese translation of the SAQ-OR reveals good psychometric properties for studying the organizational safety climate, however larger and further studies are required to compensate the lack of subjects in some items. Like other studies, this scale seems to be an acceptable to adequate tool to evaluate the safety climate. Results allowed

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are satisfactory. However, there is latitude for improvement, especially in the involvement of the management bodies as this factor has the lowest score for the majority of healthcare professionals.

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## Clima de segurança no bloco operatório: tradução, validação e aplicação do Questionário de Atitudes de Segurança

### R E S U M O

#### Palavras-chave:

Clima de segurança  
Bloco operatório  
Ergonomia  
Segurança do doente  
Qualidade em saúde

**Introdução:** A avaliação do clima de segurança é cada vez mais reconhecida como um fator na melhoria da prestação de cuidados de saúde, especialmente no bloco operatório (BO). Um dos instrumentos mais comumente validados e utilizados para medir a Cultura de Segurança é o *Safety Attitudes Questionnaire* (SAQ) ou Questionário de Atitude de Segurança (QAS). Este estudo apresenta a validação da versão para Bloco Operatório (QAS-BO), para aplicação nas instituições de saúde portuguesas. As características psicométricas do questionário traduzido são também apresentadas.

**Metodologia:** A versão original em inglês do QAS-BO, foi traduzida e adaptada para o contexto português, através do processo de tradução-retradução e aplicado num hospital público central. A análise psicométrica foi feita através do alfa de Cronbach e das correlações entre escalas.

**Resultados:** Os testes de consistência interna obtiveram valores médios de 0.9 para os 73 itens. A análise fatorial e o grau de ajuste (SRMR 0.05, RMSEA 0.002, CFI 0.90) obtiveram valores satisfatórios. As relações entre o clima de segurança, trabalho em equipa, satisfação profissional, perceção sobre os órgãos de gestão e condições de trabalho são moderadas. Um total de 82 questionários foram analisados e revelaram diferenças significativas na comunicação entre diferentes classes profissionais, nomeadamente entre cirurgiões (4.2) e entre cirurgiões e enfermeiros (2.9). As condições de trabalho e a satisfação profissional obtiveram os valores mais elevados, com 3.8 e 3.5 respetivamente, e a perceção sobre os órgãos de gestão o valor mais baixo (2.8).

**Conclusão:** A versão portuguesa do QAS-BO, apresenta boas características psicométricas para estudar o clima de segurança das instituições de saúde, não obstante, são necessários estudos mais abrangentes de forma a colmatar o reduzido número de elementos em alguns itens. Tal como outros estudos revelaram, este instrumento é aceitável para analisar o clima de segurança. Os resultados permitem concluir que as condições de trabalho e a satisfação profissional são satisfatórias. No entanto, existe oportunidade de intervenção e melhoria, principalmente no envolvimento dos órgãos de gestão.

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## Introduction

Population based research suggests that in the United States between 44,000 and 98,000 patients die each year from preventable errors, making medical error the eighth most common cause of death.<sup>1</sup> Operating rooms (OR) can have a high prevalence of errors, being an interdisciplinary, complex activity with a strong dependence on technical skill, where ergonomics and organizational factors play an essential role. Due to these factors it is imperative that the safety climate in the OR is analyzed in order to improve patient safety.<sup>2</sup> Efforts to assess and improve safety culture and to better define its role in patient safety are facilitated by its measurement. By identifying attributes of an organization that are

both malleable and potentially related to safety, managers can intervene to improve the quality of care. Existing patient safety climate measurement tools are numerous, whereas little information in the literature provides guidance to users or researchers in the selection of tools for research or safety improvement measurement initiatives.<sup>3</sup>

Patient safety is fundamental to healthcare quality. Attention has recently focused on the patient safety climate of an organization and its impact on patient outcomes. A strong safety climate appears to be an essential condition for safe patient care in hospitals. A number of instruments are used to measure this patient safety climate or culture. The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) is a validated, widely used instrument to investigate multiple factors of safety climate at the clinical level in a variety of inpatient and outpatient

settings.<sup>4</sup> Variations on the definition of safety culture exist.<sup>5</sup> “Safety culture” and “safety climate” are sometimes used interchangeably, but in the literature, different meanings tend to be given to the terms. Measuring safety culture or safety climate is important because the culture of an organization, team perceptions influence patient safety outcomes, and these measures can be used to monitor changes over time.<sup>6</sup> The safety culture is part of the overall culture of an organization.<sup>7</sup> This refers to how patient safety is designed and implemented within an organization and the structures and processes to support them.<sup>8</sup> Safety culture became popular after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986, when it was suggested that organizations can reduce accidents and safety incidents through the development of a “positive safety culture”.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, the concept of safety culture is not unique to healthcare, and has been widely used in the oil industries, gas and energy, transport, aviation and military sectors.<sup>10</sup> The “safety culture” is broadly defined as: “a global phenomenon that spans the norms, values and basic assumptions of a whole organization. Climate, on the other hand, is more specific and refers to professional perception of particular aspects of the organization’s culture”.<sup>11</sup> Compared to safety climate, culture is a broader term that represents all aspects and values of an organization as well as actions related to safety, while the climate focuses more on the perception that professionals have about how safety is managed in organizations.<sup>12</sup> Safety climate has been defined as “the way we do things around here,” or perceptions of policies, practices and “shared” procedures.<sup>13</sup> As such, the safety climate-spectrum describes an organization that is influenced by how people behave, think and feel about safety issues. This is a complex phenomenon that is not always understood by the leaders of healthcare institutions, thus making it difficult to operationalize, and essential leadership experience to achieve a climate of safety throughout the organization.<sup>14</sup> In this view, the safety culture is a broad term that represents all aspects and values of an organization as well as actions related to security,<sup>12</sup> while safety climate is a subset of the broader culture and refers to perceptions health professionals on patient safety within the organization.<sup>15</sup> For this reason, some authors suggest that it is easier to measure safety climate, because culture is much broader.<sup>7</sup> This focuses more on perceptions of security professionals regarding support for the management, supervision, risks, policies and practices of security, trust and openness.

Concerning operating rooms teams are composed by three different careers (surgery, anesthesiology and nursing) with intermittent representations by radiology and pathology.<sup>16</sup> Action in OR is a complex, interdisciplinary practice, with heavy reliance on individual action (human technical skills), held within complex organizations where human and team factors (human non-technical skills) and organizational factors (system) play a key role in a constant interaction between humans, machines and equipment.<sup>2</sup> The OR in the logic of the open environment system receives various inputs and through a set of activities, transforms resources (inputs) into results (outputs)<sup>17</sup> and is sensible to external influences on performance and group dynamics.<sup>18</sup> The environment of the operating room, by its very nature, is conducive to accidents and teamwork and cooperation is critical to the efficiency and

**Table 1 – SAQ-OR factors and definitions.**

Factors	Definition
Teamwork climate	Perceived quality of collaboration between personnel
Job satisfaction	Positivity about the work experience
Perceptions of management	Approval of managerial action
Safety climate	Perceptions of a strong and proactive organizational commitment to safety
Working conditions	Perceived quality of the OR’s work environment and logistical support (staffing, equipment, etc.)
Stress recognition	Acknowledgment of how performance is influenced by stressors

above all for safety in surgery and its deficit is responsible for about half of errors detected.<sup>2</sup>

## Methods

### *The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-Operating Room version*

The SAQ was developed to measure attitudes regarding safety climate. The SAQ is a refinement of the Intensive Care Unit Management Attitudes Questionnaire<sup>19</sup> and the full version of the SAQ comprises 60 items, whereas the OR version contains 59 items, with 30 belonging to six factors: teamwork climate, job satisfaction, perceptions of management, safety climate, working conditions, and stress recognition<sup>20</sup> (Table 1). The questionnaire takes approximately 10–15 min to complete and each item is answered using a 5-point Likert scale (Disagree Strongly, Disagree Slightly, Neutral, Agree Slightly, Agree Strongly).<sup>21</sup>

### *Translation of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-Operating Room (phase 1)*

The questionnaire was translated from the original in English using the forward-backward translation method. The EN-PT translation is performed by two independent translators (A – Portuguese person with knowledge of English and B – English person with knowledge of Portuguese), in which the first performed the translation and the second carried out the verification of that translation. A translator C (English person with knowledge of Portuguese) translated the Portuguese version of the questionnaire back to English. Finally we compared the original version of the questionnaire (written in English) with the English version of the translator. The equality or similarity between these two questionnaires indicates whether the Portuguese version of the questionnaire is suitable for application.

### *Face validity (phase 2)*

Before using the instrument in a sample of healthcare professionals, a pre-test was performed to validate, check the instrument effectiveness and make any corrections. The

face validity was tested by 4 nurses and 4 physicians, randomly selected from the OR team with different ages and specialties. They studied the Portuguese version and were guided to indicate concerns about the items and feel free to propose a better formulation. Comments were then discussed by the researchers and a consensus was reached and a final translated SAQ-OR Portuguese version was established.

### *Psychometric testing of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire based on survey data*

A cross-sectional design was used to test the internal consistency of the SAQ-OR. Surgeons, Nurses, Anesthesiologists, Radiographers and Auxiliaries with at least 1 year of working experience at a central hospital from two surgical wards were asked to fill out the Portuguese translation of the SAQ-OR. Respondent demographic characteristics such as gender, age, professional category, professional experience, employment status were also included.

### *Data collection and ethical considerations*

The questionnaires were distributed to the Surgeons, Nurses, Anesthesiologists, Radiographers and Auxiliaries by the head nurse and head Anesthesiologist or the researcher and had to be completed within 2 months. All questionnaires were collected in a (secured) box on the ward. Every week, a reminder was sent to ward staff. Respondents were informed that participation was voluntary. Questionnaires were treated anonymously, and that the decision to return a completed questionnaire was deemed their informed consent. The study was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Algarve's Hospital Center (Centro Hospitalar do Algarve – CHA).

### *Statistical analysis*

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the population characteristics and the SAQ-OR item and scale-level results on the units. Internal consistency of the total SAQ-OR and its six factors “teamwork climate,” “safety climate,” “stress recognition,” “working conditions,” “job satisfaction” and “perception of management” was measured by calculating Cronbach's alpha.

The goodness-of-fit statistic was used to measure whether the overall model fit was good. Three different fit indices were used: standardized root mean square residual (SRMR), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) and comparative fit index (CFI). The goodness-of-fit statistics and correlation matrix were analyzed with IBM SPSS AMOS (Analysis of Moment Structures) V.22.<sup>22</sup>

A good model fit between the target model and the observed data are distinguished by SRMR values between 0.0 and 1.0, where 0.0 indicates perfect fit, and RMSEA values  $\leq .05$  and CFI values  $\geq .95$ .<sup>21</sup> Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was used for conclusions about the conceptual and semantic equivalence of a translated questionnaire<sup>20</sup> and deals with the relationships between observed measures or indicators. In this context, CFA is used to verify the number of underlying factors of the instrument and the pattern of item-factor relationships (factor loadings).<sup>22</sup>

Normality test was performed using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Data analysis was performed by frequency tables and descriptive statistics. In order to compare more than two groups, the Kruskal-Wallis test (*H*) was performed. Finally, for a review of the relationship between variables, the Spearman correlation (*rs*) test was applied. All data were analyzed using SPSS (version 20.0 for Windows).

## **Results**

### *Translation, validity and internal consistency of Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-Operating Room*

#### *Translation of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-Operating Room (phase 1)*

No significant differences were detected between the translations. Ethnic group was present in the demographics section of the English version of the questionnaire, but was decided to be removed as it was considered to be irrelevant and still possibly offensive. Some questions were considered somewhat delicate, because of the sensitivities regarding errors, staffing, management, and workload.

#### *Face validity (phase 2)*

No major remarks were given by the four nurses and four physicians who evaluated the face validity of the SAQ-OR. Minor suggestions were given to improve the clarity of the wording, e.g. the word “medical error” was changed to “clinical error” (“*erro médico*” to “*erro clínico*”) as the term “medical error” in Portuguese implies that these are errors performed by physicians alone and not by all healthcare professionals. Moreover a brief definition of what was considered a “clinical error” was included on the bottom of the questionnaire similar to the original English version (“Clinical error is defined as any mistake in the delivery of care, by any healthcare professional, regardless of the outcome”). In addition, one spelling mistake was detected and corrected (“fatigue” was translated to “*fatiga*” instead of “*fadiga*”) (Annex 1).

### *Psychometric testing of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire based on survey data*

The sample consists of 82 healthcare professionals who hold positions in the operating room, divided into 5 distinct professional classes. 18 surgeons (22%), 43 nurses (52%), 11 anesthesiologists (13%), 6 (7%) Radiographers and 4 auxiliaries (5%). 21 subjects have ages between 20 and 29 years (25.6%), 26 between 30 and 39 years (31.7%), 18 between 40 and 49 years (22%), 14 between 50 and 59 years (17%) and 3 between 60 and 69 years (3.7%).

We obtained a mean age of 38.7 years, a minimum of 23 years and a maximum of 61 years. The average number of years that health professionals working in that institution is 12.6 years with 10.1 years of professional experience with a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 36 years, respectively. Regarding the sex distribution of the sample, 44 were female (53.7%) and 38 male (46.3%). Of all surgeons, 15 were males. With a total of 43 nurses, the majority ( $n=27$ ) were females.

**Table 2 – Cronbach's alpha for each of the factors of the Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-OR version.**

Factors	Cronbach's alpha	Number of items (n=59)
Teamwork climate	0.47	17
Safety climate	0.67	19
Stress recognition	0.72	10
Job satisfaction	0.55	4
Working conditions	0.50	4
Perceptions of management	0.34	5

$\alpha \geq 0.9$ , excellent; 0.7–0.9, good; 0.6–0.7, acceptable; 0.5–0.6, poor; <0.5, unacceptable.

**Table 3 – Goodness-of-fit indices for CFA of the SAQ-OR factors.**

Sample size	82
Standardized root mean square residual (SRMR)	0.05
Root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)	0.00
Comparative fit index (CFI)	0.90

SRMR reference: 0.0–1.0, with 0.0 indicating perfect fit. RMSEA reference:  $\leq 0.05$ , good;  $\geq 0.10$ , poor fit. CFI reference: 0.90–0.95, acceptable;  $> 0.95$ , good.

The majority of respondents are between 0 and 5 years working in the institution with 24%, and between 6 and 10 years with 28%. The same applies to years of experience with 34.1% and 31.7% respectively. The majority of the sample is employed full time (91.5%) and only 7 elements claim to be hired part-time or contractual. Regarding shifts performed, most of the staff said they hold variable shifts (73.2%).

#### Internal consistency

In order to study the internal consistency of the instrument used, Cronbach's alpha for each of the factors of the questionnaire was calculated (Table 2). The overall Cronbach's alpha assumes a value of 0.89 for all items of the questionnaire which is borderline excellent.

#### Internal construct validity

The goodness-of-fit values used to evaluate the internal construct validity are displayed in Table 3. The SRMR value was

**Table 5 – Communication analysis by different professions (n = 82).**

Communication	Average	Standard deviation (SD)
Surgeons	3.1	0.9
Nurses	3.7	0.7
Anesthesiologists	3.3	0.9
Radiographers	3.4	0.8
Auxiliaries	3.4	0.8
Communication (overall)	3.5	0.6

1, very low; 2, low; 3, adequate; 4, high; 5, very high.

0.05, the RMSEA was 0.00, and the CFI value was 0.90, which indicates an acceptable model fit approximation of the translated version of the SAQ-OR. The inter-correlations between the factors are presented in Table 4 and ranged from 0.2 to 0.7.

#### Communication

Based on a Likert scale of 6 points the sample classified the quality of communication. Descriptively represented in Table 5 are the averages of the responses for the different professions and in Table 6 about communication between professional groups.

In order to ascertain whether the respondent's occupied function produces some influence on their perception of communication, the nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis (H) (Table 7) was applied.

#### Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-operating room factors

In Table 8 are shown the factors of the instrument that comprise safety climate. Working conditions is the factor that has a higher average (3.8) and perceptions of management have the lowest average (2.8). The climate team also has a high value in relation to other factors, however is considerably within the average (3.4). Still related to this factor the safety climate has the second lowest rating with 3.1 in average.

A table with their respective response averages attributed by caregivers to each factor groups was also made (Table 9). The factors with higher scores are the working conditions and job satisfaction.

**Table 4 – Correlation matrix for the SAQ-OR factors.**

	Teamwork climate	Safety climate	Job satisfaction	Stress recognition	Perceptions of management	Working conditions
Teamwork climate	1					
Safety climate	0.43	1				
Job satisfaction	0.36	0.38	1			
Stress recognition	-0.18	-0.05	-0.33	1		
Perceptions of management	0.58	0.70	0.36	-0.02	1	
Working conditions	0.45	0.24	0.23	-0.09	0.26	1

**Table 6 – Response distribution on communication between professionals (n = 82).**

Function	Communication				
	Surgeons	Nurses	Anesthesiologists	Radiographers	Auxiliaries
Surgeons	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.3
Nurses	2.9	3.8	3.1	3.1	3.5
Anesthesiologists	2.7	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.4
Radiographers	2.9	3.4	2.7	4.8	2.6
Auxiliaries	2.8	3.4	3.1	2.2	3.5

1, very low; 2, low; 3, adequate; 4, high; 5, very high.

The gray shades highlight the relation between the same profession.

**Table 7 – Communication influence on different professions (n = 82).**

Function	Communication					
	Surgeons	Nurses	Anesthesiologists	Radiographers	Auxiliaries	p
Surgeons	65.6	34.4	32.5	34.0	36.2	0.00
Nurses	39.2	39.2	24.4	28.7	28.8	0.24
Anesthesiologists	38.5	28.0	44.9	19.4	27.6	0.03
Radiographers	48.5	32.2	50.0	72.9	15.6	0.00
Auxiliaries	39.7	44.0	43.0	24.6	43.5	0.37

**Table 8 – Analysis of safety climate factors.**

SAQ factors	Average	Standard deviation (SD)
Team climate	3.4	0.4
Safety climate	3.1	0.4
Working conditions	3.8	0.5
Perceptions of management	2.8	0.6
Stress recognition	3.3	0.6
Job satisfaction	3.5	0.7

1, very low; 2, low; 3, adequate; 4, high; 5, very high.

## Discussion

The purpose of this study was to translate the SAQ-OR Version and assess the validity and reliability of the Portuguese

version. The values obtained in the study of validity of the instrument both in each factor and as a whole are of the same magnitude of the figures presented by the authors of the questionnaire.<sup>19</sup> Translations and adaptations of “Safety Attitudes Questionnaire” for other languages also revealed a high content validity.<sup>23,24</sup> The SAQ has also been extensively used to relate climate safety with the results for the patient,<sup>24</sup> however this study did not address this issue. The present value of Cronbach’s alpha value is closely linked to the number of items evaluated. The greater the number of items, the higher the alpha value obtained.<sup>25</sup> Thus, it is possible to determine that low values are caused by the small number of items per factor.<sup>26</sup> Despite the usefulness of Cronbach’s alpha in the study of reliability, it is still an estimate, subject to many influences to be taken into account. The alpha value is not a characteristic of the instrument, but rather an estimate of the reliability of the data obtained,<sup>27</sup> however, the values recorded on the validity of the instrument, using Cronbach’s alpha ranged between 0.68 and 0.90.<sup>21,23,25</sup> This study

**Table 9 – Distribution of means allocated by different professional groups to the factors (n = 82).**

Function	Factors					
	Teamwork climate	Safety climate	Job satisfaction	Stress recognition	Perceptions of management	Working conditions
Surgeons	3.5	3.2	3.8	3.5	3.0	3.7
Nurses	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.4
Anesthesiologists	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.5	4.1
Radiographers	4.0	2.7	3.9	3.2	2.7	3.7
Auxiliaries	4.0	DK/NA	4.3	2.7	3.5	4.1

DK/NA – don’t know, not applicable; CD – completely disagree; PD – partially disagree; NAND – neither agree nor disagree; PA – partially agree; CA – completely agree.

was conducted in a public hospital, more specifically in the surgery department. Many studies which use the SAQ have samples within the hundreds or even thousands of subjects as they are large-scale studies.<sup>5,20,28</sup> Internal construct validity based on the CFA and goodness-of-fit indices (SRMR, RMSEA, and CFI) showed an acceptable model fit. According to good model fit indices, the Portuguese version of the SAQ-OR is a valid instrument. Factors were moderately correlated except for stress recognition, similar to the results of the psychometric testing of other versions of the SAQ-OR.<sup>20,21</sup>

The main elements of the operating room team are surgeons, nurses and anesthesiologists. Radiographers just add some timely interventions, particularly in orthopedics or cardiology,<sup>16</sup> being called by the radiology department, and therefore not part of the surgical team itself. So this professional class has also been included for the sake of consistency as indirectly involved with patient safety in the operating theater. There are significant differences related to communication between the operating room team. Nurses also have the highest average (3.8) which suggests higher quality of communication between them and the other professions which agrees with studies using the same instrument<sup>29</sup> followed by Auxiliaries (3.4), Radiographers (3.4) and Anesthesiologists (3.3). Surgeons have the lowest average (3.1). Communication in the operating room follows complex patterns and is influenced by recurrent themes causing tension.<sup>16</sup> These results however, should not be extrapolated or generalized because they are very dependent on the number of individuals present in each professional group. Nevertheless, similar studies point to similar results in different patterns and professional classes have different communication strategies.<sup>26,27,30</sup> Observational studies report more tense patterns of communication between surgeons and nurses.<sup>31</sup> Communication patterns between tense surgeons and anesthesiologists were also observed, but uncommon.<sup>16,27</sup> This can be explained by the fact that the procedures for dialog are more common among surgeons and nurses. In a study in which they used questionnaires and direct observation of surgical procedures, nurses describe good partnership as having their opinions respected and accepted in the OR and the surgeons describe good collaboration when nurses anticipate their needs and follow their instructions.<sup>32</sup> In another study conducted in an intensive care unit with similar methodology, doctors often resorted to nurses to provide additional information and further details on the evaluation of the patient during rounds.<sup>33</sup> However, they describe many difficulties and less involvement in decision making process during the rounds.

The factors “safety climate” and “perception of management” obtained the lower averages (3.1 and 2.8 respectively) and job satisfaction and working conditions the higher (3.5 and 3.8 respectively). Regarding the distribution of the average response of different professional groups evidenced that surgeons and radiographers have the highest job satisfaction

(3.8 and 3.9). Nurses give greater score to team climate (3.4) and working conditions (3.4). Anesthesiologists give higher score to fatigue and stress than other professional groups, followed by surgeons (3.5) and nurses (3.2). Compared to the studies analyzed, nurses have higher levels of stress, followed by anesthesiologists and surgeons.<sup>5,28,34</sup> The instrument used is derived from a questionnaire for aviation safety. There is overlap between the two items of about 25%. In a comparative study, the size of teams between OR and aviation demonstrated that the pilots had less tendency to negate the effects of fatigue and stress on your performance against surgeons (26% versus 70%).<sup>34</sup> Being collaboration and communication as important to the success of the procedures, the SAQ allows to measure teamwork, identify problems within and between professional groups and evaluate interventions aimed at improving patient safety.<sup>16</sup> Other authors have concluded that, as in aviation, errors are more related with non-technical skills such as communication, than with the technical capacity and performance.<sup>2,18</sup>

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## Conclusions

The SAQ-OR demonstrates good psychometric capabilities to study safety climate, however larger studies are needed to address the lack of data on some items. The development of a valid and reliable instrument is a longitudinal process that requires numerous positive findings across different settings. The results indicate that working conditions and job satisfaction are acceptable, but it is crucial to improve the safety climate and the involvement of the management bodies. Improving safety climate is crucial for increasing quality of service on surgical wards, and thus, it becomes relevant to improve the above aspects. Our results demonstrate the perception of professionals employed in the OR, but the use of interviews and direct observation of surgical procedures, would be also interesting for a more suitable approach.

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## Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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## Annex 1. Safety Attitudes Questionnaire-Operating Room-Portuguese Version

### Questionário de Atitudes de Segurança em Bloco Operatório

A	B	C	D	E	X
Muito Baixo	Baixo	Adequado	Alto	Muito Alto	Não sei/Não aplicável

Use a escala para descrever a qualidade da comunicação e colaboração que tem com:

1. Cirurgião Chefe/Responsável	A	B	C	D	E	X
2. Cirurgiões e Internos de Cirurgia	A	B	C	D	E	X
3. Enfermeiro Especialista	A	B	C	D	E	X
4. Perfusionistas	A	B	C	D	E	X
5. Anestesiistas	A	B	C	D	E	X
6. Internos de Anestesiologia	A	B	C	D	E	X
7. Enfermeiro Chefe	A	B	C	D	E	X
8. Técnicos de Radiologia	A	B	C	D	E	X
9. Enfermeiro de Bloco [Anestesia e Circulante]	A	B	C	D	E	X
10. Enfermeiro de Cuidados Pós-Anestesia	A	B	C	D	E	X
11. Assistentes Operacionais/ Assistentes de Enfermagem	A	B	C	D	E	X
12. Enfermeiros do Serviço de Cirurgia	A	B	C	D	E	X
13. Equipa de Avaliação Pré-Anestésica	A	B	C	D	E	X
14. Equipa de Apoio	A	B	C	D	E	X
15. Outro:	A	B	C	D	E	X

Por favor responda às seguintes questões considerando as suas experiências no B.O.

A	B	C	D	E	X	
Discordo Completamente	Discordo Parcialmente	Não concordo nem discordo	Concordo Parcialmente	Concordo Completamente	Não sei/ Não aplicável	
1. Este B.O. tem níveis de trabalho elevados	A	B	C	D	E	X
2. Gosto do meu trabalho	A	B	C	D	E	X
3. Indicações por parte das Enfermeiras sobre os cuidados com o paciente são bem recebidas no B.O.	A	B	C	D	E	X
4. Sentir-me-ia seguro se fosse um paciente aqui	A	B	C	D	E	X
5. Os erros clínicos* são resolvidos apropriadamente neste hospital	A	B	C	D	E	X
6. Este hospital faz um bom trabalho no treino de novo pessoal	A	B	C	D	E	X
7. Toda a informação necessária está disponível antes de iniciar a intervenção	A	B	C	D	E	X
8. Trabalhar neste hospital é como fazer parte de um grande família	A	B	C	D	E	X
9. A administração deste hospital está a fazer um bom trabalho	A	B	C	D	E	X
10. A administração do hospital apoia os meus esforços diários	A	B	C	D	E	X
11. Recebo o feedback apropriado sobre o meu desempenho	A	B	C	D	E	X
12. É difícil discutir erros clínicos no B.O.	A	B	C	D	E	X
13. Os Briefings prévios às intervenções cirúrgicas com a equipa de B.O. são importantes para a segurança dos doentes	A	B	C	D	E	X
14. Os Briefings prévios são frequentes no B.O.	A	B	C	D	E	X
15. Este hospital é um bom local para trabalhar	A	B	C	D	E	X
16. A fadiga interfere com a minha performance em situações de emergência	A	B	C	D	E	X
17. A administração do hospital não compromete conscientemente a segurança dos doentes	A	B	C	D	E	X
18. O pessoal no B.O. é suficiente para o número de doentes	A	B	C	D	E	X
19. As tomadas de decisão no B.O. usam indicações de profissionais relevantes nesse domínio	A	B	C	D	E	X
20. Sou encorajado pelos colegas a reportar qualquer preocupação que tenha relacionado com a segurança dos doentes	A	B	C	D	E	X
21. A cultura no B.O. permite aprender com os erros dos outros	A	B	C	D	E	X
22. Este hospital lida construtivamente com profissionais de saúde e funcionários problemáticos	A	B	C	D	E	X
23. O equipamento médico disponível no B.O. é adequado	A	B	C	D	E	X
24. Neste B.O. é difícil falar se me apercebo de um problema relacionado com o doente	A	B	C	D	E	X
25. Quando a carga de trabalho se torna excessiva a minha performance é afetada	A	B	C	D	E	X
26. Recebo atempadamente informação adequada sobre eventos no hospital que podem afetar o meu trabalho	A	B	C	D	E	X
27. Já vi cometerem-se erros com potencial de causar danos nos pacientes	A	B	C	D	E	X
28. Sei quais são os canais apropriados para direcionar questões relacionadas com a segurança dos doentes no B.O.	A	B	C	D	E	X
29. Sinto orgulho em trabalhar neste hospital	A	B	C	D	E	X
30. Desacordos no B.O. são resolvidos apropriadamente (ex.: não quem está certo mas o que é melhor para o doente)	A	B	C	D	E	X
31. Sou menos eficiente quando sinto fadiga	A	B	C	D	E	X



A	B	C	D	E	X
Discordo Completamente	Discordo Parcialmente	Não concordo nem discordo	Concordo Parcialmente	Concordo Completamente	Não sei/ Não aplicável
32. Sou mais propenso a cometer erros em situações tensas ou hostis					
33. O stress relacionado com problemas pessoais afeta o meu desempenho					
34. Tenho o apoio necessário de outros colegas para me preocupar com os doentes					
35. É fácil para os profissionais no B.O. colocarem questões quando existe algo que não compreendem					
36. Interrupções na continuidade de cuidados (ex. mudanças de turno, transferência de pacientes) podem prejudicar a segurança do doente					
37. Durante situações de emergência, consigo prever o que os outros profissionais vão realizar de seguida					
38. O pessoal Médico e de Enfermagem trabalham em conjunto como uma equipa bem coordenada					
39. Sou frequentemente incapaz de expressar a minha discordância com a equipa					
40. Os profissionais de saúde podem verdadeiramente ignorar os problemas pessoais quando estão a trabalhar					
41. A moral é elevada no B.O. desta instituição					
42. Os estagiários e internos, na minha especialidade são bem supervisionados					
43. Sei o primeiro e o último nome de toda a equipa com quem trabalhei no último turno					
44. Cometi erros com risco potencial de provocar dano nos doentes					
45. A equipa e o pessoal assistente neste B.O. estão a realizar um bom trabalho					
46. Todo o pessoal no B.O. assume responsabilidade pela segurança dos doentes					
47. Sinto fadiga quando me levanto de manhã e tenho de enfrentar outro dia de trabalho					
48. A segurança dos doentes é constantemente reforçada como prioridade no B.O.					
49. Sinto burnout devido ao meu trabalho					
50. Assuntos importantes são bem comunicados nas mudanças de turno					
51. Há adesão generalizada às normas de orientação e critérios baseados na evidência relativos à segurança dos doentes					
52. Sinto-me frustrado pelo meu trabalho					
53. Sinto que trabalho demasiado					
54. Informação obtida através de relatórios de incidentes é usada para tornar os cuidados prestados mais seguros no B.O.					
55. Durante situações de emergência [ex. reanimações], a minha performance não é afetada por trabalhar com pessoal menos experiente ou menos capaz					
56. Os profissionais ignoram frequentemente as regras ou normas de orientação [ex. lavagem das mãos, protocolos de tratamento/percursos clínicos, zonas estéreis] que são estabelecidos no B.O.					
57. O cirurgião chefe e o cirurgião assistente devem estar formalmente encarregues da equipa de B.O.					
58. Falhas de comunicação que levam a atrasos do início dos procedimentos cirúrgicos são frequentes					
59. Alguma vez realizou este questionário?	Sim	Não	Não Sei		

**INFORMAÇÃO**

Função:	<input type="radio"/> Técnicos de Radiologia	Turno Habitual:
<input type="radio"/> Cirurgião Chefe/Responsável	<input type="radio"/> Enfermeiro de Bloco (Anestesia e Circulante)	<input type="radio"/> Dias
<input type="radio"/> Cirurgiões e Internos de Cirurgia	<input type="radio"/> Enfermeiro de Cuidados Pós-Anestesia	<input type="radio"/> Tardes
<input type="radio"/> Enfermeiro Especialista	<input type="radio"/> Assistentes de Enfermagem/Assistentes Operacionais	<input type="radio"/> Noites
<input type="radio"/> Perfusionistas	<input type="radio"/> Enfermeiros do Serviço de Cirurgia	<input type="radio"/> Turnos Variáveis
<input type="radio"/> Anestésista	<input type="radio"/> Equipa de Avaliação Pré-Anestésica	Sexo:
<input type="radio"/> Internos de Anestesiologia	<input type="radio"/> Equipa de Apoio	<input type="radio"/> Masculino
<input type="radio"/> Enfermeiro Chefe	<input type="radio"/> Outro:	<input type="radio"/> Feminino
Estado Profissional:	Nacionalidade: _____	
<input type="radio"/> Tempo Integral	Idade: _____	
<input type="radio"/> Tempo Parcial	Há quantos anos trabalha neste hospital? _____	
<input type="radio"/> Prestador Externo "outsourcing"	Quantos anos de experiência possui nesta especialidade? _____	
<input type="radio"/> Contratual		
Comentários:	_____	
	_____	
	_____	

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