Reply to Letter to the Editor

Operating Room Traffic is a Major Concern During Total Joint Arthroplasty

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We are grateful to Drs. Banerjee and Kheiran for carefully reading our article [1]. They made excellent points that deserve clarification. Regarding a breakdown of the openings for each TKA and THA for primary and revision procedures, the data are as follows: the average operating room times for primary TKA and THA were 109 and 93 minutes, respectively. Average door openings were 58 in primary TKA cases and 62 in primary THA cases, yielding per minute rates of 0.53 and 0.67, respectively. The average operating room times for revision TKA and revision THA were 160 minutes and 161 minutes respectively. Door openings averaged 132 in revision TKA cases and 138 in revision THA cases, yielding per minute rates of 0.83 and 0.86, respectively.

For our study, we recorded only the number of attending orthopaedic surgeons and a breakdown of the individual surgical teams per case was not included in the data collection. This is a good point that could provide valuable

insight into discrepancies regarding the preparedness of different surgical staff.

The individuals who collected data for this study were all full-time members of our institution's research department. Before data collection, an orthopaedic surgeon reviewed the components of each of the procedures in depth with the data collectors. Possible reasons for operating room traffic were discussed in full detail. It is possible that because these data collectors were not physicians, some of the traffic classified as "unknown" may have had a justified cause, thus yielding a lower percentage than the indicated 47%. However, this would not change the message of the study, and would only indicate that a greater percentage may fall in one of the other categories. Additionally, it is likely that because 47% of the traffic was labeled as unknown, many of these openings were for nonjustified reasons.

Reference

1. Panahi P, Stroh M, Casper DS, Parvizi J, Austin MS. Operating room traffic is a major concern during total joint arthroplasty. *Clin Orthop Relat Res*. 2012;470:2690–2694.

(Re: Panahi P, Stroh M, Casper DS, Parvizi J, Austin MS. Operating Room Traffic is a Major Concern During Total Joint Arthroplasty. *Clin Orthop Relat Res*. 2012;470:2690–2694.)

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