Fixing/wedging systems: suitable solution in case of outsourcing

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Background

Since 2013, sterilization of Lille University Hospital (CHRU) is outsourced and centralized in STERINORD meaning transportation of trays in case carts by trucks. Moreover, acquisition of new washer disinfectors more powerful. Breakage of instruments was identified as a major risk.

News Goals have emerged:
- Protect instrument during the transport
- Protect instrument during washing
- Maintain the integrity of packaging

So we decided to install fixing/wedging systems in operating trays.

Setting and method

Installation of fixing/wedging systems was performed in several steps:
1) A risk analysis to selected operating trays with higher risk.
2) A tender was launched to select the supplier of fixing/wedging systems.
3) The supplier helps us to choose the different wedging items to make the best of the system.
4) Fixing/wedging systems have been set up by the supplier in first operating trays. Then, operating room nurses have equipped the rest of operating trays.

Results

All medical specialities are concerned:
- Ophthalmology, microsurgery, neurosurgery,
- traumatology-orthopedic, heart surgery

Numerous operating trays were selected as risk:
- expensive and micro instruments
- delicate instrument with regard to transport and/or wash
- Moreover: laparoscopy, motors, loan instruments and more generally removing plastic boxes

These systems allow a customization of each kind of operating trays

50% of operating trays are equipped: 3000 trays

18 months for the installation

The total cost is 500 000€

Discussion

In addition to the cost, the time to install the systems must be taken into account. The system offers other advantages: reduction of manual handling risks, reduction of breakage in washer disinfectors, reduction of tears and holes in packaging systems due to sharp instruments... A special attention must be paid during installation of the wedging systems to remain smooth outside the tray and avoid injuring packaging systems.

Conclusion

18 months after setting up the wedging systems and starting transportation by trucks, no damage of instruments was noticed. Losses are limited. Even if the cost is high (purchase of wedging systems and time to install them) the benefit is indisputable.