Safety in the Operating Room

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DISCLAIMER: This course is not about how to fix the errant complications one may encounter. Rather, this course is designed to reduce the rate at which you encounter complications that may threaten the patient’s outcome.

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- Royalties from MST

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- No financial interests

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- No financial interests

It starts somewhere...
- Residency, Partners, Colleagues
- Habits:
  - Good: Stand the test of time, frequently challenged
  - Bad: “That’s the way I’ve always done it.”
Interrelated Changes

- Any new technique brought into the surgical armamentarium will have consequences for other techniques
  - Changing incisions
  - Changing viscoelastics
  - Changing phaco styles (chop, etc.)

Seemingly Unrelated Changes

- Safety is absolutely the same
- Most “complications” result in incidental consequences to the surgical outcome
  - Right?
- It’s the potential for the complication to alter the chance for a good outcome for our patients.

The Perilous Cascade

- Every surgical disaster is the result of not one event—it takes two or more
  - The first event may be absolutely innocuous, and by itself easily ignored
    - No effect on the surgical outcome
  - The second event itself may be just as innocuous by itself
  - Together, the coupled sequence finds synergy, and the outcome is affected

Where to Start?

- It boils down to unwanted, unintended contact
  - Incidental—brief, sudden, unexpected
    - Movement, IFIS
  - Prolonged—anticipated, but with unintended consequences
    - Thermal injury, endothelial damage
Formulate a Strategy

- Start at the end—the worst situations—and work backwards
  - How did I get here?
- Review videos
  - Did what I thought happened really happen?
- Take notes
  - The conditions/situation will fade

Topics Today

- Inherent safety in a highly polished needle
- Surgical efficiency through better vacuum
  - Yes, speed (expediency) does improve safety
- 10 steps (or so) to reduce complications
- Improving surgical access when necessary
- Reducing the risk of thermal injury