

4th International Conference on

Spine and Spinal Disorders

September 03-04, 2019 | London, UK

Utilising a human factors approach in your Spine practice

Rafid Al-Mahfoudh

Brighton and Sussex University Hospital, UK

Ergonomics in healthcare has emerged as a pivotal science with novel approaches. Unprecedented levels of both waste reduction and product quality have been achieved in industry and manufacturing on the basis of process mapping, engineering principles and lean methodology.


Systems and processes that may reduce errors and improve performance in Spine surgery include standardisation and checklists (developed to enhance teamwork and improve handover) e.g. the implementation of the WHO Checklist has been shown to reduce inpatient mortality. Others include optimising the surgical environment, investigating errors, attention to ergonomics and equipment design, enhancing communication and team performance. An understanding of the principles of human factors and the implementation of this discipline can have a profoundly positive influence in spine practice from the ward to the theatre environment.

Healthcare practitioners should embrace these concepts with the ultimate goal of delivering a high quality service. We emphasise that errors and inefficiencies in patient care arise not from the solitary actions of individuals but from conflicting, incomplete, or suboptimal systems. Human factors can be used to elucidate system errors when suboptimal healthcare outcomes arise.

Speaker Biography

Rafid Al-Mahfoudh is an appointed Consultant Neurosurgeon and Complex Spine Surgeon in Brighton and London. He is senior lecturer at the University of Brighton. He is one very few surgeons with dual orthopaedic and Neurosurgical spine accreditation in addition to further specialist fellowship training in anterior skull base and minimally invasive neurosurgery in Adelaide and New York. He is honorary senior lecturer at the University of Sussex.

e: rafid@spineandbrain.co.uk

 Notes: