

Aim

The impact of missing instruments in sterilization packages has long been underestimated. The cost represents 1% of the annual hospital sterilization budget¹.

This may cause the cancellation or reprogramming of some operations.

It is essential for our unit to make this circuit as secure as possible and to implement corrective measures to improve upon the situation.

Methods

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The data presented here comes from a big-data query of the Ecosoft® (MMM) software.

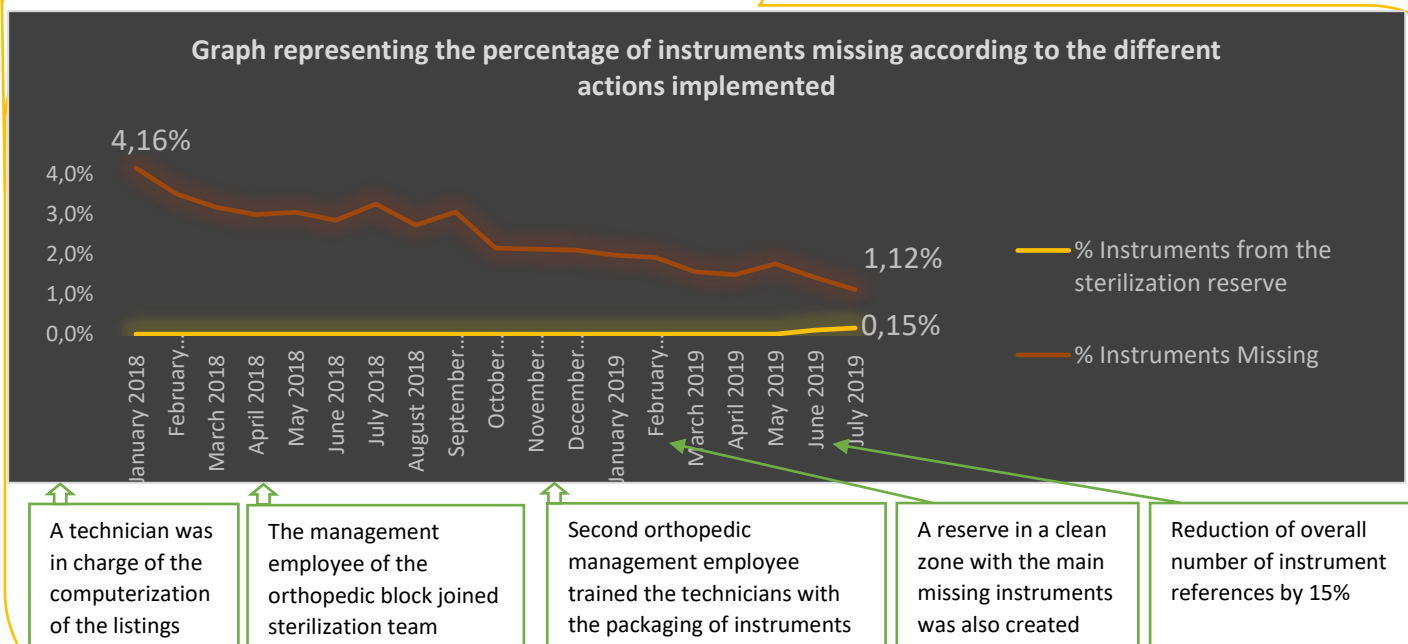
They were filled by the sterilization technicians during the packaging process. They control the status of each instrument with a computerized listing: validating the conformity or non-conformity of the instruments with justifications (broken, missing etc.).

We compared the percentage of missing instruments (relative to the computerized listing) from January 2018 to July 2019.

Noting that the sterilization packages that did not have a computerized listing or were loaned by a pharmaceutical company were not taken into account into this study.

Results

The policy of reducing the missing instruments started in January 2018.



Thanks to all these measures, the number of missing instruments decreased by **371%** in the space of **19 months**.

Conclusion

Management of the missing instruments of the operating packages is a **crucial issue** from an economical and human standpoint, ensuring an optimal quality for the patients. Our example is **applicable in other institutions**. Knowing that we reached the average of missing instruments of other international hospitals¹.

This cooperation with the management employees of operations blocks, the optimal use of computer tools and the good training of sterilization technicians are key.

¹: Daumas C. « Instruments de base manquants dans les boites: une réalité dure à digérer »