

F5 THE FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE IN THE THEATRE. SUCH FACTORS MIGHT INCLUDE FAMILIARITY WITH TASKS; DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE OF EQUIPMENT; HOURS OF WORK; ERROR MANAGEMENT; AND SO ON.

INTRODUCTION.

Before addressing the question as stated I would first like to make five very brief points which I think are of prime importance when considering the factors that affect performance of the Team in the operating theatre.

- The whole team recognises the purpose of what it is doing, namely to treat a child as effectively, efficiently and safely as possible.
- That each individual should be highly motivated and committed first to the purpose of the exercise, namely the effective treatment of the child, and secondly to have an appropriate regard for the other members of the Team as people and as professionals.
- Mundane issues such as the absolute necessity for punctuality, openness and honesty are vital to the achieving of the purpose.
- Each individual member of the Team must have prepared for the operation and should anticipate the problems and needs that could arise. This applies to the surgeon and the anaesthetist in terms of their detailed knowledge of the patient and the patient's problems. It also applies to the cardiologist in putting forward as complete and accurate a diagnosis as possible. It applies to the nurses so that all the appropriate equipment, disposables and possible implants are available should they be needed, and to the perfusionists who have to be able to respond quickly and effectively to whatever situation arises.
- The final point which is vital for an efficient performance is, of course, the skill and