Developing a quality standard for verbal communication during cardiopulmonary bypass procedures
A pilot study based on recorded observations and interviews

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Background: CABG procedures are performed by an interdisciplinairy team of surgeons, anesthesiologists and perfusionists. Verbal communication during CABG is essential for safe and efficient cardiac surgery, yet sensitive to failure due to a lack of standardization.

Aim: This study aimed to improve coordination during CABG by identifying critical items in verbal interaction between team members.

Methods: Items that were considered critical for successful communication during a CABG were identified by audiovisual recordings of 6 cases, individual interviews and a focus group meeting.

Results: Of 79 recorded items, team members considered 64 items to be critical to verbally communicate for safe CABG surgery. On average, these critical items were verbalized in 4.4 out of 6 recorded CABGs.

Conclusion: In this study, a list was developed containing 64 items that team members unanimously considered critical to verbalize during a CABG procedure. It forms the foundation of a quality standard for verbal communication during CPB and can increase safety and efficiency of cardiac surgery.