

ISSUE 5: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

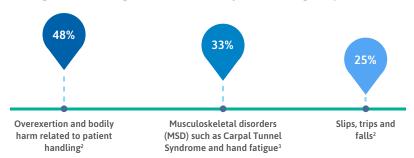
Part 2: Identifying Ergonomic Risk in the O.R.1

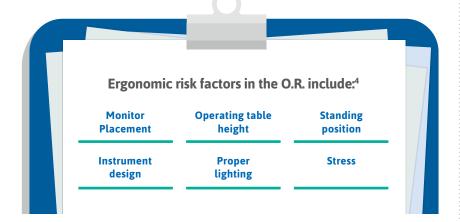


The operating room (O.R.) imposes some unique challenges and can be associated with negative impact to healthcare quality and efficiency. The O.R. area and the procedures it undertakes including its unpredictability, need to be examined to help staff implement safe and timely changes to reduce the ergonomic implications and risk.

Work related injuries are multifactorial, adversely affecting health care workers and safe patient care.

Leading causes of ergonomic related injuries among hospital workers.²



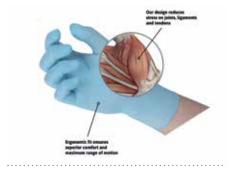


The burden of MSD associated costs has driven the establishment of best practice standards with some US states enacting no-lift laws. Similar standards of practice are embraced by the Association of periOperative registered nurses (AORN) as well as European and Australian nurses' associations. There is also the introduction of specifically designed equipment and devices that aim to reduce ergonomic injuries that occur in the O.R.



Leading causes of lost workday injury and illness related to occupational MSDs are Carpal Tunnel syndrome and tendinitis.⁵

Hand fatigue is prevalent in the O.R. and is often caused by **rigid**, **slippery**, **ill-fitting gloves**. Ergonomically designed gloves may result in less hand fatigue, contributing to a decrease in hand injuries during surgery.



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