

Absence or Presence: Silent Discourse in the OR

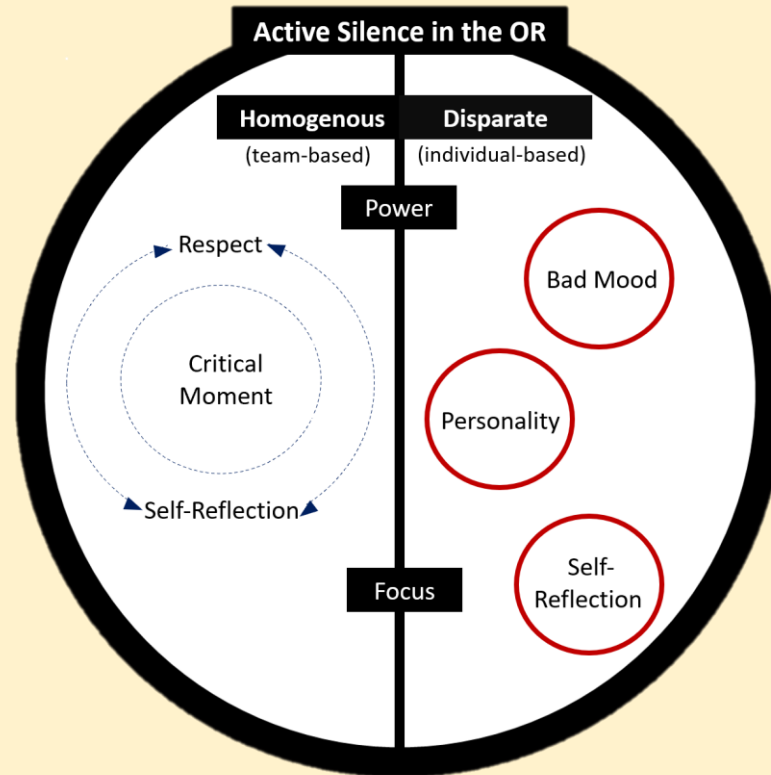
Objective

To explore silence in the teaching operating room and how it informs interprofessional team function

Methods

Using Constructed Grounded Theory and drawing on Dauenhauer's framework of silence as discourse, we used semi-structured interviews with 25 subjects across the interprofessional surgical team. Analysis was iterative, from the coding of transcripts to theme development. A conceptual model was developed illustrating active silence in the OR.

Conceptual Model



Results

OR silences contain meaning as a part of discourse, with a direct impact on surgical team action. Two overarching themes helped to clarify silence's meaning as discourse: homogenous (group) and disparate (insular) silences.

Conclusion

Silence is complex and varied communication requiring a response from others. OR silences has important implications in teaching moments, patient safety, and surgical team action. Our findings suggest surgical teams should increase their awareness of silence and its impact on team performance

Said, Brommelsiek, Gray, & Sutkin
@tariqmsaid @Surgilab_UMKC

#SEW2020

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4:45 PM – 5:45 PM
Fifth Avenue Room

