

# CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

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October 2024



## Factors Affecting Perioperative Nurse Adherence to Ergonomic Safety Measures

AORN Journal (2024)\*

“Factors Affecting Perioperative Nurse Adherence to Ergonomic Safety Measures” explores the prevalence of musculoskeletal injuries (MSDs) among perioperative nurses and examines the factors influencing their adherence to ergonomic safety measures. The study, conducted through a cross-sectional survey of 155 perioperative nurses, found that a significant majority (93%) had experienced at least one musculoskeletal injury or related pain. The most common barrier to adhering to safety measures was inadequate staffing, which underscores the physical workload demands in perioperative settings.

The article highlights safety risks faced by perioperative nurses due to high ergonomic demands and the lack of focus on this group in ergonomic research. Despite efforts by hospitals to reduce MSDs through policies and training, adherence remains challenging, partly due to issues such as inconsistent teamwork and changing demands within perioperative teams. The findings suggest that increased attention is needed to improve ergonomic safety practices and support nurses in reducing injury rates.

93% of perioperative nurses experience injury

Inadequate staffing increases risk for injury

HoverTech can help

### Frequent Ergonomical Challenges in Perioperative Realm

Assistive devices are part of a comprehensive care plan to support nurses ergonomically, and HoverTech products facilitate patient positioning by reducing the number of staff needed to safely perform the task.

- High Physical Demand • Adherence to Safety Measures • Inconsistent Teamwork • Staffing Demands

### HoverTech products that support patient comfort & caregiver safety in the OR

- The HoverMatt® PROS Line: air and non-air breathable, wipeable matts and slings are used to safely reposition (including boosting and turning), transfer, and prone patients to reduce patient and caregiver injuries.
- The HoverMatt™ Pros Wedge: assists caregivers with patient positioning. Patient turning and wedge placement relieves bony prominences to aide with Q2. The wedge provides a 30-degree turning angle for patients at risk for pressure injuries.
- The HoverMatt® Half-Matt is a shorter version of our original transfer mattress. At 45” long, it ends right below the buttocks, and it is ideal for use during cystoscopy, labor and delivery, and other gynecological or urological procedures.
- The HoverMatt SPU Split-Leg is a specialty transfer mattress designed for use in the lithotomy position or on surgical tables when the split-leg plates are employed.

\* Letvak, S., Apple, B., Jenkins, M. (2024). Factors affecting perioperative nurse adherence to ergonomic safety measures. *AORN Journal*.