Establishing the Use of the Pasero Opioid-Induced Sedation Scale (POSS) in Post Surgical Patients
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Introduction
Over-sedation and respiratory depression are the most serious side effects of opioid administration in the pain management of the post surgical patient. Our goal is to prevent unintentional over sedation and opioid-induced respiratory depression using a standardized sedation scale such as the POSS to increase patient safety.

Design and Methods
PROCEDURE
• Our team brainstormed and decided to test the validity and reliability of using the POSS in post-op pain management to provide proper pain relief and promote nurse confidence in opioid dosing in the PACU.
• Staff attended Challenges in Pain Assessment & Management in Peri-op Setting conference.
• Proposed concept to Unit Practice Council.
• Developed policy & procedure based on evidence-based practice.
• Nursing staff survey performed.

Results

Conclusions
• Increased confidence in avoiding opioid-induced respiratory depression
• Easy to use; uniform assessment tool
• Cost-effective tool
• Maintain pain control
• POSS implemented as part of post-op vital sign
• Increased staff confidence in appropriate administration of pain medications

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Literature Cited