

# Neurosurgical Briefing

## Introduction

While [healthcare](#) should not be compared to other high-reliability [organizations](#) (HROs), many [lessons](#), [attitudes](#), and transferable [practices](#) can be applied and adapted from them to improve [patient safety](#) and [team morale](#). Despite briefings improving both [patient safety](#) and effective [teamwork](#), some in [healthcare](#) have not valued or actively engaged with them, deeming them to be irrelevant.

Davidson et al. in a pilot study explored the experiences of, and attitudes to, briefings using a 10-question Survey Monkey. This was promoted during a human factors session at the 2023 Association of Surgeons in Training Conference (ASiT) and a large NHS trust. Questions were asked about the number of briefings per day, attitudes, engagement, and respondents' attitudes to them. In total, 109 responses were received. A total of 85% reported at least one briefing on a normal operating day, 65% felt them to be interactive, 67% reported that briefings were led by the most senior surgical team member, and 58% lasted four minutes or more. Eighteen percent of respondents felt they were of little benefit, and 56% don't routinely do a [debriefing](#) at the end of the day. This study has highlighted variable attitudes to team briefings, with some colleagues still seeing them as a 'tick box' exercise. While culture has changed following the introduction of the WHO checklist, the importance of active engagement and education to improve the delivery and value of effective briefings cannot be overestimated. It is also an opportunity to create a 'safe space' for team members and to confirm zero tolerance for any inappropriate behavior, including sexual misconduct <sup>1)</sup>.

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[Miscommunication](#) and poor [coordination](#) among surgical [teams](#) are known causes of preventable medical [harm](#) and [operating room](#) inefficiencies and inhibit [surgical training](#). [Technology](#) may help overcome these challenges <sup>2)</sup>

## Definition

A briefing is a concise and comprehensive [presentation](#) of [information](#), [instructions](#), or [updates](#) provided to the neurosurgery [team](#). It is a [communication](#) process designed to convey important [details](#), set [expectations](#), or provide [guidance](#) on a particular [subject](#), [event](#), [task](#), [project](#), or [situation](#). Briefings are commonly used in various contexts, including [healthcare](#).

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“Briefing” and “debriefing” are terms often used in different contexts, and they have distinct meanings:

Briefing:

Definition: A briefing is a meeting or session in which information, instructions, or updates are given to individuals or a group. Purpose: The purpose of a briefing is to convey essential information, provide instructions, or share details about a specific situation, task, project, or mission. Timing:

Briefings are typically conducted before an event, task, or project to ensure that individuals are well-informed and prepared.

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### Debriefing:

Debriefing is a meeting or session that occurs after an event, task, or project, during which individuals or a team review and discuss what happened, share experiences, and analyze outcomes. The purpose of a debriefing is to reflect on the events that transpired, learn from [experiences](#), identify strengths and weaknesses, and improve future performance. Debriefings typically take place after the completion of an activity, allowing participants to discuss their observations and insights. Example: After a research project is completed, team members participate in a debriefing session to discuss the results, challenges faced, and potential improvements for future projects.

In summary, a briefing is a pre-event or pre-task session focused on providing information and instructions, while a debriefing is a post-event or post-task session focused on reflecting, learning, and improving based on the experiences and outcomes of the activity. Both briefings and debriefings are important components of [effective communication](#) and [performance](#) improvement in various fields, including healthcare, and research.

## Key features

**Conciseness:** Briefings are characterized by the [delivery](#) of [essential information](#) [clearly](#) and [concisely](#), avoiding unnecessary [details](#) or [complexity](#).

**Relevance:** The [information](#) presented in a briefing is directly related to the [topic](#) at hand, ensuring that the [audience](#) receives pertinent [details](#) for their understanding or action.

**Clarity:** Briefings aim to communicate information straightforwardly and understandably, using language that is accessible to the audience.

**Purposeful:** Briefings have a specific [purpose](#), whether it is to inform, instruct, [update](#), or prepare individuals for a [task](#) or [event](#).

**Timeliness:** Briefings are often conducted before an [event](#), [task](#), or [project](#) to ensure that individuals are well-prepared and have the necessary information to carry out their [responsibility](#).

**Interaction:** Depending on the context, briefings may involve interaction between the presenter and the audience, allowing for [questions](#) or [clarification](#).

The [effectiveness](#) of a briefing relies on the ability to convey information clearly and efficiently, addressing the needs and expectations of the audience.

## Neurosurgical Briefing in Alicante

## On-call incidents

[On-call incidents.](#)

## Neurosurgeons and residents setting of everyday responsibilities

1. Patient Care
2. Surgical Procedures:
3. Patient Management:
4. Collaboration:
5. Research and Academia:
6. Administrative Tasks:
7. On-call Duties

## List of admitted individuals awaiting decisions, and those awaiting surgery

Admitted Individuals Awaiting Decisions:

This category typically includes patients who have been admitted to the hospital, but their exact course of treatment or medical interventions may still be under consideration or evaluation. This could involve awaiting test results, consultations with specialists, or decisions regarding the appropriate treatment plan.

Those Awaiting Surgery:

This category refers to individuals who have been admitted to the hospital and are waiting to undergo a surgical procedure. The wait may be due to factors such as scheduling, preparation, or the need to stabilize the patient's condition before surgery. In a healthcare setting, maintaining organized and accurate lists of patients and their status is crucial for effective patient care and management

## Preoperative Briefing

[Preoperative Briefing.](#)

# Complications

[Complications](#) the day before

# Consultations

[Consultation](#)

# Referral

[Referral](#)

<sup>1)</sup>

Davidson M, Brennan E, Garg M, Oeppen RS, Brennan PA. Briefings in surgical teams: a pilot study of experiences and attitudes. Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg. 2023 Dec 12:S0266-4356(23)00577-6. doi: 10.1016/j.bjoms.2023.12.004. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38320922.

<sup>2)</sup>

Ber R, London D, Senan S, Youssefi Y, Harter DH, Golfinos JG, Pacione D. Perioperative team communication through a mobile app for improving coordination and education in neurosurgery cases. J Neurosurg. 2021 Sep 24;136(4):1157-1163. doi: 10.3171/2021.4.JNS21485. PMID: 34560644.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:50**

