# Study Shows Sex Diversity in Surgical Teams Improves Patient Outcomes



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A recent study published in the British Journal of Surgery reports that hospitals with a higher percentage of female surgeons and anesthesiologists in their surgical teams offer better postoperative outcomes for patients. Conducted by researchers at the University of Toronto, the study analyzed 709,899 elective surgeries performed in 88 hospitals in Ontario, Canada, between 2009 and 2019.

Key findings from the study include: - Hospitals with more than 35% female members in surgical teams observed a 3% reduction in the odds of major postoperative complications within 90 days. - Female surgeons were involved in 6.7% of the surgeries, while female anesthesiologists participated in 27% of the operations. - The median proportion of female anesthesiologists and surgeons in hospitals was 28% annually.

The research suggests that increasing sex diversity in surgical teams not only enhances patient outcomes but could also lower healthcare costs. Lead author Dr. Julie Hallet emphasized that fostering sex diversity in these teams is crucial for optimizing performance in perioperative care.

By focusing on team diversity rather than comparing individual male and female clinicians, the study shifts the conversation towards systematic recruitment and retention of female doctors to improve healthcare delivery.