Does the location of a surgical procedure affect delay or cancellation of surgery due to non-compliance with fasting guidelines?

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**Background**
- Fasting before surgery is necessary to decrease the risk of aspiration prior to general anesthesia.
- Non-compliance with fasting guidelines can lead to delay or cancellation of procedures.
- This can lead to negative economic and emotional consequences for the family.

**Methods**
- IRB exempt.
- All families with children having an ambulatory procedure in the main operating room or procedure center were included.
- All patients received a standard preoperative phone call with fasting instructions the day prior to surgery.
- We then compared rates of delay and cancellation due to fasting non-compliance between the main operating room and procedure center.

**Results**
- In the main operating room, delay and cancellation rates were low (18/5695, 0.3% and 32/5695, 0.6% respectively).
- In the procedure center, rate of cancellation was higher than in the main operating room (92/933, 9.8%).

**Conclusions**
- Non-compliance with fasting guidelines remains a huge burden to the pediatric anesthesiologist.
- Rates of cancellation and delay were rare in the main operating room.
- In patients who were non-compliant, one third of these were able to have procedure completed that day.
- This is likely due to increased schedule flexibility and ability to shuffle cases.
- Due to a less flexible schedule, surgery was cancelled more commonly in the procedure center for fasting non-compliance.
- New modalities to reinforce fasting guidelines are needed to decrease the high rate of cancellations in this area.

**References**