

# THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC ON THE SURGICAL TASK PERFORMANCE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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## Introduction:

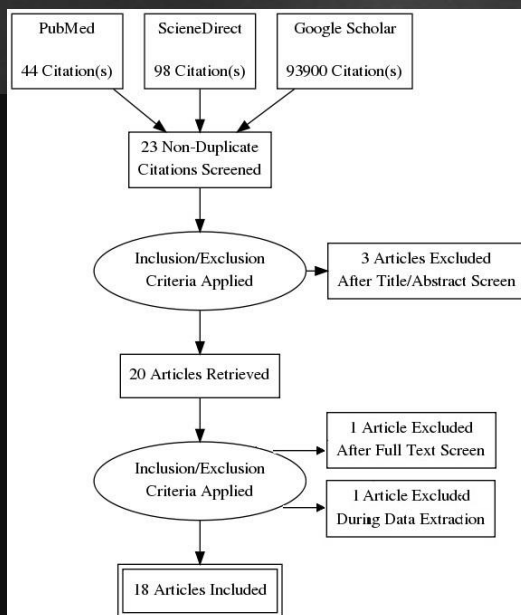
Music is commonly played in operating theatres. Music was shown to diminish stress of the surgical team before surgery. However, it might give rise to negative effects of divided attention causing auditory distracted surgical routines. Therefore, we aimed to systematically review the effect of music on the surgeon's task performance.

## Methods:

A systematic review was performed in compliance with PRISMA guidelines. A literature search using PubMed, ScienceDirect and Google Scholar, was performed. Search items were considered from the nature of the articles, date of publication, forum of publication, aims and main findings in relation to use of music in operating theatres.

## Results:

Out of 18 studies, 6 studies were assessed having high quality and 8 studies of moderate quality. Five studies, provided strong and moderate scientific evidence for a positive effect of music on surgical task performance. The positive effect of music was significantly higher compared to its negative effect ( $p < 0.0001$ ).



## Conclusion:

Certain music elements affect the surgical task performance in a positive or negative way. The total and significant outcome of the present study was that the positive effect of music on surgeon's task performance, overrides its negative effect

## Key statement:

Classic music when played with a low to medium volume can improve the surgical task performance by increasing both accuracy and speed. The distracting effect of music should also be put in consideration when playing a loud or high-beat type of music in the operating theatres.