

Patient Safety and Risk Management in Medicine: From Theory to Practice

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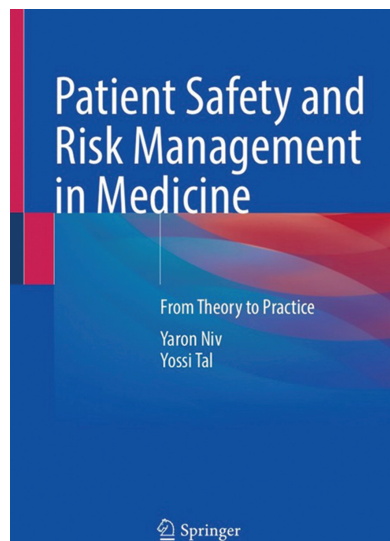
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Patient Safety and Risk Management in Medicine: From Theory to Practice by Yaron Niv and Yossi Tal, published in 2023 by Springer Nature, is a comprehensive and timely resource dedicated to the theory and practical aspects of patient safety and risk management and focusing on the systemic approach to minimizing harm in healthcare settings.

In 1999, the U.S. Institute of Medicine declared that rather than assigning blame for medical errors, professional investigations should be conducted to identify what caused them and how to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. The focus was on systemic factors. It is estimated that in the United States alone, there are between 250,000 and 400,000 preventable deaths annually due to medical errors, costing over US\$15 billion per year.

The book creates a professional framework in the field of patient safety and risk management in medicine and is a valuable resource for every manager and caregiver interested in mitigating the chronic problem of errors and adverse events in medicine.



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The book addresses a broad spectrum of topics that are central to understanding and improving patient safety. Notably, it covers foundational principles, the prevalence of iatrogenic harm, the evolution of risk management, and the development of organizational safety culture in medicine. The authors provide detailed analysis of human and organizational factors that contribute to medical errors and outline practical tools as well as methods for effective mitigation.

The book stands out for its evidence-based, multidisciplinary ap-

proach, combining medical, psychological, and organizational expertise. It draws on extensive real-world experience from various healthcare organizations, giving the content both depth and actionable relevance. The book is based on the authors' extensive knowledge and experience in risk management in healthcare and patient safety. Particularly pertinent is the in-depth treatment of risk management in Israel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emphasis is placed on the *second victim* phenomenon, highlighting the emotional and professional impacts that adverse events can exert on caregivers, as well as the need for systemic, not just individual, investigation and improvement. Medical and legal aspects, patient partnerships in safety promotion, and evolving trends, including current evaluation metrics, are also thoughtfully explored.

The book is recommended for a wide audience, from clinicians and medical managers to pharmacists, psychologists, and allied health professionals. Medical students and professionals at all stages of their career will benefit from its integrative and practical orientation. This book is recommended as a resource for both instructors and students in courses on patient safety and risk management.

While the book is comprehensive, some sections seem dense due to the breadth of content. The scope occasionally necessitates less-detailed treatment of particular subtopics, but this limitation is balanced by its value as an accessible reference and launchpad for further learning. In addition, some of the chapters could be shortened, and take-home messages could be presented more simply.

CONCLUSIONS

Niv and Tal's work provides not only a theoretical framework but also pragmatic strategies, making it essential reading for anyone involved in patient care and safety. The focus on creating an organizational culture of safety, as well as timely lessons from the recent pandemic, ensures its value for academy, individual practitioners, and institutional lead-

ers. Managers and healthcare workers can benefit from the information provided in the book, and can use it as a practical daily guide for events they might encounter during their career.

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The theory of democratic government is not that the will of the people is always right, but rather that normal human beings of average intelligence will, if given a chance, learn the right and best course by bitter experience.

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963), American sociologist, writer, historian, and Pan-Africanist civil rights activist

Capsule

A spatially coordinated keratinocyte–fibroblast circuit recruits MMP9+ myeloid cells to drive type I interferon-driven inflammation in photosensitive autoimmunity

Wang et al. investigated the cellular mechanisms responsible for photosensitivity and skin inflammation in autoimmune diseases characterized by type I interferon activation, including forms of systemic lupus erythematosus. Using advanced spatial transcriptomics and cellular mapping technologies, the researchers identified a coordinated signaling circuit between keratinocytes and fibroblasts within the skin. This circuit promoted recruitment of MMP9-positive myeloid cells, which amplified type I interferon responses and sustained

local inflammation following ultraviolet light exposure. The study reveals how distinct stromal and immune cell populations interact spatially to drive photosensitive autoimmune pathology. These findings provide new therapeutic targets for interferon-mediated skin disease and may help explain the mechanisms underlying photosensitivity in lupus and related autoimmune disorders.

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Eitan Israeli

Capsule

Host control of persistent Epstein–Barr virus infection

Scjmidt and colleagues reported the identification of non-genetic and genetic factors that are associated with EBV control during persistent infection. Using blood-based genome sequence data from 486,315 UK Biobank and 336,123 participants, they identified short-read pairs mapping to the EBV genome in 16.2% and 21.8% of individuals, respectively. EBV read detection (EBVread+) reflects increased viral load in blood cells, as shown by orthogonal measurements, and was associated with HIV infection, immunosuppressive drug intake and current smoking. Genome-wide analyses of EBVread+ identified strong associations at the major histocompatibility complex

(MHC), including 54 independent human leukocyte antigen (HLA) alleles of MHC classes I and II, and at 27 genomic regions outside MHC. Epistasis with distinct HLA alleles of MHC class I was observed at the ERAP2 locus. Analysis of individuals with EBV-associated diseases revealed a higher polygenic burden of EBVread+ for HLA alleles at MHC class I in multiple sclerosis (driven by HLA-A*02:01) and at MHC class II in rheumatoid arthritis. Phenome-wide analyses identified a polygenic overlap of EBVread+ with inflammatory bowel disease, hypothyroidism and type 1 diabetes.

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