OBJECTIVES: To examine the association between continuity of care and risk of postoperative complications, especially after cardiac surgery. This is a major concern in Brazil. This study presents results of a cohort study in which 480 patients were followed up for 30 days following cardiac surgery. Multiple logistic regression analysis was then applied to estimate the association between continuity of care and postoperative complications. RESULTS: The mean follow-up time was 30 days. Of the 480 patients, 39% had at least one postoperative complication. The risk of postoperative complications was lower among patients with at least 89% continuity of care (adjusted odds ratio = 0.70, 95% confidence interval 0.53-0.91) compared to patients with less than 80% continuity of care. Conclusion: Continuity of care is an important determinant of postoperative complications after cardiac surgery. It is recommended that efforts be made to improve continuity of care in order to reduce the risk of postoperative complications.

BACKGROUND: We aimed to study the correlation between continuity of care and postoperative complications. This is a major concern in Brazil. This study presents results of a cohort study in which 480 patients were followed up for 30 days following cardiac surgery. Multiple logistic regression analysis was then applied to estimate the association between continuity of care and postoperative complications. RESULTS: The mean follow-up time was 30 days. Of the 480 patients, 39% had at least one postoperative complication. The risk of postoperative complications was lower among patients with at least 89% continuity of care (adjusted odds ratio = 0.70, 95% confidence interval 0.53-0.91) compared to patients with less than 80% continuity of care. Conclusion: Continuity of care is an important determinant of postoperative complications after cardiac surgery. It is recommended that efforts be made to improve continuity of care in order to reduce the risk of postoperative complications.

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