BACKGROUND  Complications following surgery are twice as likely to result in death in Africa, compared to international outcomes.

QUESTION  Does enhanced postoperative surveillance of adult surgical patients at high risk of postoperative morbidity or mortality reduce 30-day in-hospital mortality in Africa?

INTERVENTION  Clustered randomised trial of five enhanced postoperative surveillance interventions for high-risk surgical patients.

POPULATION  332 hospitals in 28 African countries. Mean age was 37·1 years and 69·4% were women.

FINDINGS

1/5 patients were high-risk

- High-risk mortality 5.6%
- Low-risk mortality 0.2%

CONCLUSION  Enhanced postoperative surveillance did not decrease in hospital mortality following surgery. To improve surgical outcomes in Africa, interventions need to be carefully co-designed with local healthcare staff to ensure sustainable adoption.

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