

## INTRODUCTION

The advances in medicine have lead to much sophisticated methods of diagnosis, treating and monitoring of patients. This in turn have lead to an increased incidence of therapeutic complications including the surgical ones. An important aspect is the iatrogenic complications particularly those which follow surgical manoeuvres. Iatrogenic complications are defined as such complications resulting from any diagnostic or therapeutic procedure that is not the natural consequence of the interaction between the procedure and the patient disease, or is not the expected outcome of the procedure. The causes of iatrogenic complications vary from hospital to hospital as well as within a different areas of a single hospital. They depend on the type of patient population, the level of sophistication of care and on manpower policies. The shortage of physicians, causing them, to work long hours or making them unavilable at a site of emergency and technical personnel shortage may have a profound effect on the patient safety (Raphaet et al., 1982).

The iatrogenic disease are the topic of many recent reports and they have been given several names such as, surgical mishaps, misadventures or adverse

occurrences. But regardless of how they are called or whether they occur on surgical or medical services, they deserve much more attention than they usually get (Couch et al., 1981).

The subject of iatrogenic complications can be discussed according to the following items: faulty technique, failure to identify correctly an anatomical structures, error in judgement, adverse reaction to drugs and complications of anaesthesia (Jack, 1977).

In this essay a trial to review the different aetiological factors resulting in iatrogenic complications following surgical procedures will be settled. This review will include, iatrogenic complications following head, neck, breast and gastro-intestinal surgery. This review will not be a comprehensive one, but only a representation to some examples of such complications.