Aim
The project aim is to achieve an average monthly report turnaround time of 10 minutes or less for retained foreign objects (RFOs) by September 1, 2015.

Definitions
RFO
Any item or foreign object related to an operative or invasive procedure that is unintentionally left inside a patient.

Report turnaround time (TAT)
The amount of time between RFO exam completion and radiology report availability.

Why do the project?
- Reduced anesthesia time for patient
- Reduced OR time for surgeons and staff

How did we know improvement was made?
If an average monthly RFO report TAT of 10 minutes or less was achieved and reported.

Baseline
The goal of an average TAT of 10 minutes was not achieved for any month (January-April) before implementation.

Analysis
Various tools, including Fishbone, Process Flow, and Pareto charts, were used to analyze data.

Fishbone

Flow chart

Reasons for delay (%)

PLAN and do the improvement

DI coordinators

Improve communication
- DI coordinators are sent weekly RFO faculty coverage schedules
- Daytime radiologist (7:00 am-5:00 pm) checks in with DISC and provides extension/phone number
- On-call radiologist's pager and home phone number are given to DI coordinators

Radiologists

Radiologist coverage
- Daytime RFO coverage moved to less busy service
- Backup radiologist placed on daytime schedule
- Reminders about 10-minute TAT
- Reminders about RFO coverage assignments

Communication
Radiologist received RFO notifications via e-mail, phone call, page

Education
Radiologist received an RFO lecture with common RFO example images uploaded to SharePoint for reference

Results
Team achieved the goal of 10-minute TAT (May and June) from radiologist page to OR report (in minutes) after implementation.