



Intra & Post operative complications management

{Color index: [Important](#) | [Notes](#) | [Book](#) | [Extra](#) | [Editing File](#) | [comments or errors](#)}

Resources: lecture slides, 435teamwork, Book

Objectives

Students at the end of the lecture will be able to: Learn a common approach to emergency

- Learn a common approach to emergency medical problems encountered in intraoperative and postoperative period.
- Study postoperative respiratory and hemodynamic problems and understand how to manage these problems.
- Learn about the predisposing factors, differential diagnosis and management of PONV.
- Understand the causes and treatments of postoperative agitation and delirium.
- Learn about the causes of delayed emergence and know how to deal with this problem.
- Learn about different approaches of postoperative pain management.

Done by: Deena AlNouwaiser, Ghada AlSkait, Nora Alsahli

Revised by: Amal Alshaibi, Shrooq Alsomali

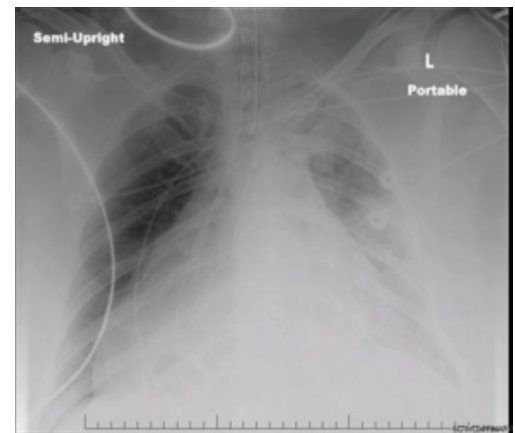
★ Anaesthetic emergencies in the operating theatre

- Emergencies are not common but when they do occur they are often life threatening and require immediate action. especially if it was an emergency surgery where the patient can come from the street straight to the OR.
- Factors in the mnemonic COVER **ABCD** accounts for approximately 95% of critical incidents.
 - Colour — saturation, central cyanosis; Check the color of the patient's lips well saturated > pink .Not well saturated > blue why? due to deoxygenated hemoglobin.
 - **Oxygen** — ensure adequate and correct delivery
 - Ventilation — e.g. breathing circuit, air entry, CO2 trace, vaporizer
 - Endotracheal tube — kinks, obstruction, endobronchial; Go from machine to patient or patient to machine to not miss anything.
 - Review monitors — correct site, checked, calibrated; Don't rely 100% on the monitor personally check the patients color through his lips, conjunctiva or mucous membranes.
 - Airway — failed intubation, laryngeal spasm, foreign body, aspiration
 - Breathing — difficult to ventilate, e.g. tube occlusion, bronchospasm, pneumothorax, aspiration, lack of neuromuscular blocking drug (NMBD), pulmonary oedema;
 - Circulation — hypotension: excess anaesthetic agent, dysrhythmia, myocardial ischaemia/MI, hypovolaemia from any cause (e.g. dehydration, bleeding), sepsis, tension pneumothorax, sympathetic block (e.g. spinal or epidural anaesthetic);
 - Drugs — anaphylaxis (very rare), wrong drug/dose/route (Can happen)
 - Embolism — air/fat/cement/amniotic fluid. very rare.
 - Others — related to **CVP line** (pneumothorax /cardiac tamponade), awareness, endocrine and metabolic (malignant hyperthermia (MH), phaeochromocytoma).

Aspiration

- Definition:- inhalation of gastric contents can occur in patients who do not have fully functional upper airway reflexes. Impaired protective airway reflexes.
- Relaxation of both upper and lower esophageal sphincters > stomach is full then he will regurgitate. That's why we ask the patients to fast before surgery.
- Signs
 - Gastric contents visible within breathing circuit/airway adjunct (e.g. LMA)
 - ↓ **SaO2** due to bronchospasm.
 - Wheeze/stridor
 - Tachycardia
 - ↑ **Airway pressure** due to severe bronchospasm and pneumonitis.

- Regurgitation of gastric contents can happen in any patient who does not have fully functioning upper airway protective reflexes.
- Those at risk include:
 - Inadequate period of preoperative starvation. emergency surgery.
 - Delayed gastric emptying (e.g. opiates, pain, bowel obstruction, pregnancy at term; see Figure 6.2). any source of stress like trauma.
 - Insufficient/lack of cricoid pressure at induction of anaesthesia early extubation in an at-risk patient in supine position . intubation (double-check). Rapid sequence intubation (RSI)¹
- Treatment (no definitive treatment here)
 - 100% oxygen.
 - Call for help.
 - 30° Head-down position to prevent/limit aspiration.
 - Oropharyngeal suction.
 - Tracheal intubation if needed, including tracheal suctioning.
 - Postoperatively: physiotherapy, oxygen.
 - Some advocate antibiotics and steroids (useless)
 - hepatization of the lung² > lung becomes whiter pic



Air embolism

- Definition:- air embolism results from inadvertent introduction of air into the circulation, usually via the venous system. venous has a better outcome than arterial.
- Causes:
 - Neurosurgery (dural sinuses are non-collapsible). surgeries in sitting position so this will cause low arteriovenous pressure in the brain so what happens? when you open a vessel it will immediately get sucked (by negative venous pressure) so we always keep the patients on saline and we try to keep the bp a little high so it wouldn't cause an air embolism.
 - Caesarean section (e.g. if exposed veins are raised above the level of heart).
 - Central line insertion/removal. first complication is pneumothorax then air embolism
 - Epidural catheter placement (if loss of resistance to air is used).
 - Entrainment through an intravenous line (especially if pressure-assisted).
 - Situations where high pressure gas is used (laparoscopy)

¹ Rapid sequence intubation (RSI) is an airway management technique that produces inducing immediate unresponsiveness (induction agent) and muscular relaxation

² Pulmonary hepatization refers to the pathologic alteration of lung tissue such that it resembles liver tissue.

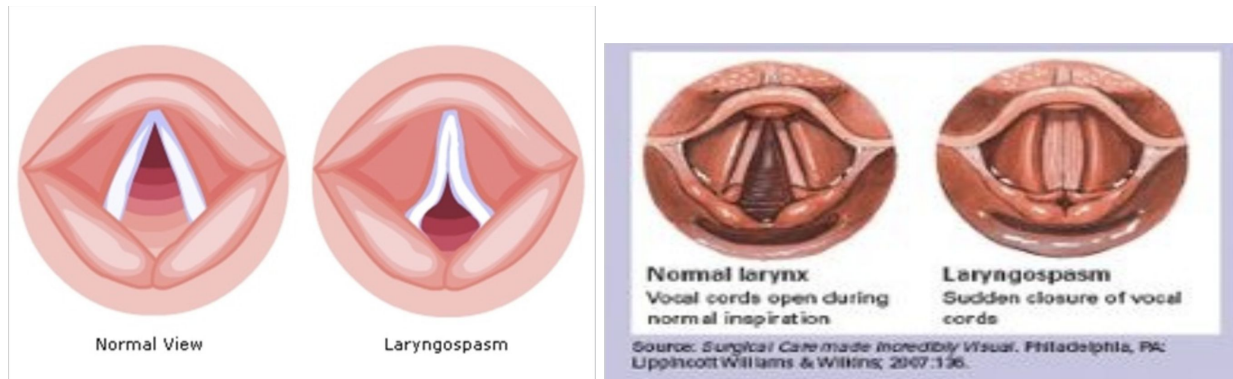
- Signs:
 - ↑ HR
 - ↓ BP
 - ↓ SaO₂
 - ↓ ETCO₂ (acute due to ventilation—perfusion mismatch). because the pulmonary artery has been blocked > no saturation to the lungs > carbon dioxide is not coming out so it will increase
 - Murmur if it was in the heart (millwheel, due to air circulating around the cardiac chambers). if you do an echo you'll see a bubble in the cardiac chamber.

- Treatment:
 - 100% Oxygen.
 - Airway, breathing, circulation and call for help.
 - Flood surgical site with saline. if there were any open vessels.
 - Position patient in Trendelenburg/left lateral decubitus position.
 - Consider inserting a central venous catheter to aspirate gas.
 - Consider **hyperbaric chamber** if indicated. for better absorption.

Laryngospasm (very common)

- Definition:- is the complete or partial adduction of the vocal cords, resulting in a variable degree of airway obstruction.
- We should differentiate between laryngospasm and bronchospasm: in bronchospasm you can ventilate but the patient cannot exhale ie cannot remove carbon dioxide so he starts to trap the air we call it air trapping while in laryngospasm the air is not allowed in the trachea at all
- Causes:
 - Airway manipulation.
 - Blood/secretions in oropharynx.
 - Patient movement.
 - Surgical stimulus.
 - Failure to deliver anaesthetic agent.
 - Suctioning the patient while he's awake . this will lead to gag reflex and laryngospasm.
- Signs
 - Partial/complete airway obstruction. complete is very dangerous
 - Paradoxical respiratory effort in a spontaneously breathing patient (abdominal/chest see-saw movements as respiratory effort attempts to overcome the obstruction). Up & down والعكس

- Stridor.



- Treatment (Best treatment is Oxygen)
 - Some or all might be needed:
 - Positive pressure ventilation with high flow oxygen (e.g. CPAP³ or IPPV⁴). can go away by itself.
 - Deepening of anaesthesia (e.g. i.v. propofol or midazolam).
 - Suxamethonium (muscle relaxant) with or without tracheal intubation — causes rapid muscle relaxation and ceases vocal cord opposition.
 - Complications
 - ↓ SaO₂. severe hypoxia . set the pulse oximetry to 94 because its on the cliff of the oxygen dissociation curve.
 - Aspiration.
 - Bradycardia (especially in children). Reflex bradycardia due to hypoxia. So, we don't give Atropine
 - Negative pressure pulmonary oedema.

Failed intubation (reproduced from the Difficult Airway Society, with permission).

- Assess the likelihood and clinical impact of basic management problems:
 - Difficulty with patient cooperation or consent.
 - Difficult mask ventilation. أهم شيء
 - Difficult supraglottic airway placement.
 - Difficult laryngoscopy.
 - Difficult intubation.
 - Difficult surgical airway access.
 - Most important is difficult oxygenation.
 - **Direct Laryngoscopy → Any problems → call for help**

³ Continuous positive airway pressure

⁴ Intermittent positive-pressure ventilation

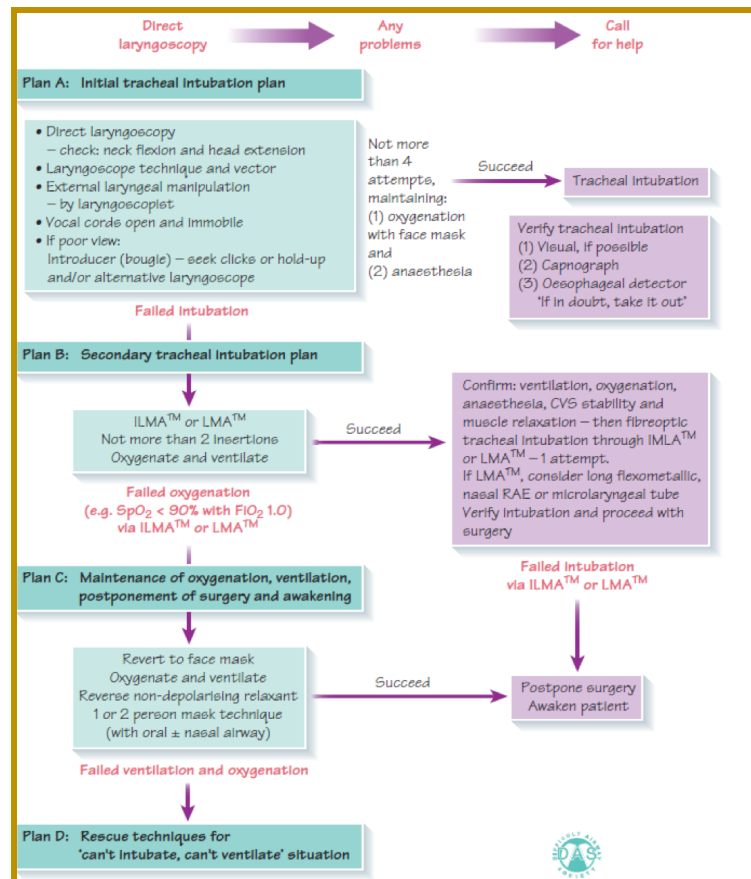
- Actively pursue opportunities to deliver supplemental oxygen throughout the process of difficult airway management. **it shouldn't go below 60-70 if it goes below that even for 5-7 minutes the brain will die.**
- Consider the relative merits and feasibility of basic management choices:
 - Awake intubation vs. intubation after induction of general anesthesia.
 - Non-invasive technique vs. invasive techniques for the initial approach to intubation.
 - Video-assisted laryngoscopy as an initial approach to intubation.
 - Preservation vs. ablation of spontaneous ventilation. **Never give muscle relaxant unless you're sure of intubation**
- **Plan A:**
 - Initial tracheal intubation plan:
 - Direct laryngoscopy
 - ✓ check: neck flexion and head extension.
 - Laryngoscope technique and vector.
 - External laryngeal manipulation by laryngoscopist.
 - Vocal cords open and immobile.
 - If poor view:
 - ✓ Introducer (bougie) seek clicks or hold-up and/or alternative laryngoscope.

Failed intubation:

- **Plan B**
 - Secondary tracheal intubation plan
 - ILMA or LMA
 - Not more than 2 insertions.** why only 2 attempts? because if the person intubating tries twice he will probably be tired and stressed so it's better for someone new to try.
 - ✓ Oxygenate and ventilate
 - Failed oxygenation **VERY IMPORTANT**
(e.g. **SpO2 < 90%** with **FiO2 1.0**)
 - ✓ Via ILMATM or LMATM either laryngeal mask airway (LMA) or wake the patient up.
- **Plan C**
 - Maintenance of oxygenation ventilation, postponement of surgery and awakening.
 - Revert to face mask.
 - Oxygenate and ventilate.
 - Reverse non-depolarizing relaxant.
 - 1 or 2 person mask technique. **1 person holds the mask 1 person ventilates**
 - (with oral + nasal airway)

Failed ventilation and oxygenation:

- **Plan D: (worst situation)**
 - Rescue techniques for 'can't intubate, can't ventilate' situation.



Malignant hyperthermia or hyperpyrexia. "Signs in the pic are important"

- Definition:- this occurs after exposure to a triggering agent (**volatile anaesthetics⁵** or **suxamethonium "succinylcholine"**) and results in loss of normal calcium homeostasis within skeletal muscle cells. Sudden increase in body temperature and basal metabolic rate so he will produce more carbon dioxide.
- if you have a patient with a previous history of malignant hyperthermia how would you anesthetize him? only use TIVA (Total intravenous

Signs

- Muscle rigidity – especially masseter muscles noticed on intubation
- Tachycardia
- Cardiovascular instability
- Hypercapnia (a progressively increasing CO₂ capnograph reading)
- Acidosis
- Hyperkalaemia
- Cyanosis
- Hyperthermia/sweating

Treatment

- Call for help/stop surgery if possible
- Stop trigger/change anaesthetic breathing circuit
- Give 100% oxygen
- Hyperventilate
- Active cooling
- Dantrolene i.v.
- Treat complications as they arise:
 - renal failure/hyperkalaemia
 - coagulopathy
 - cardiovascular complications

⁵ Volatile anesthetics like: halothane-forane.

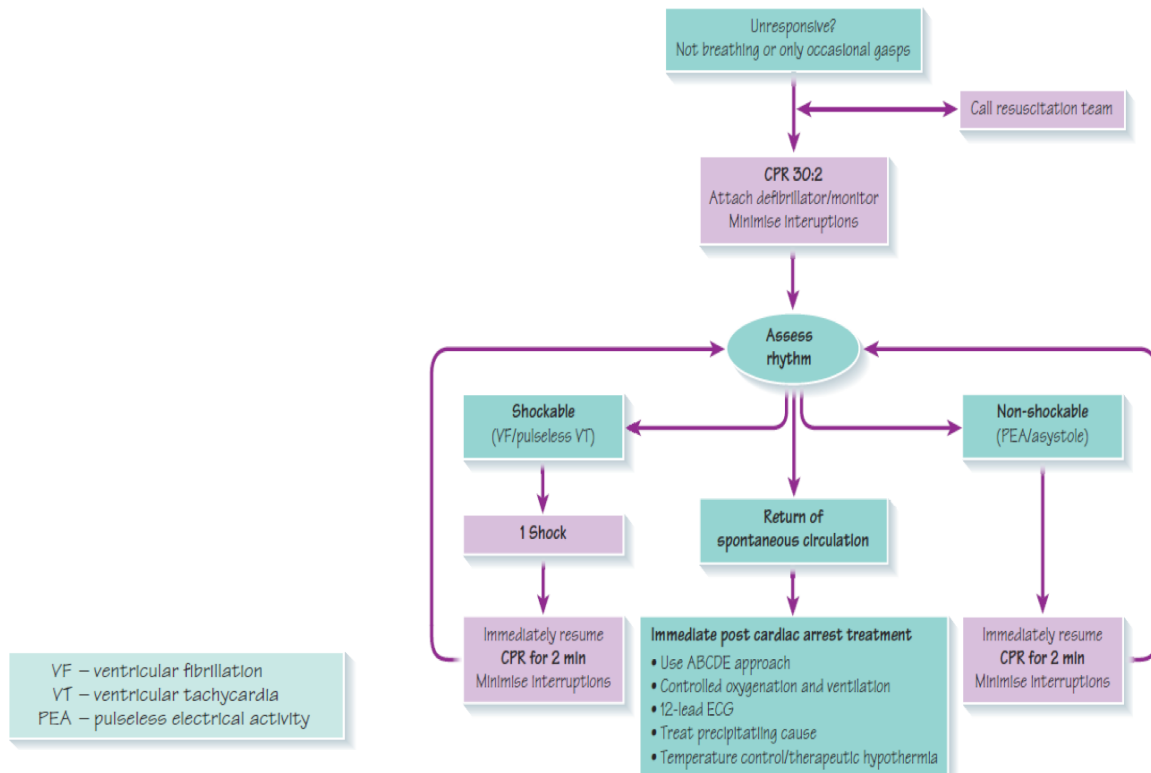
anesthesia) use: propofol - fentanyl - rocuronium. the machine should be free of any vaporizer.

Anaphylaxis

- Definition:- this is **an acute severe type 1 hypersensitivity reaction** when an antigen (trigger) reacts with immunoglobulin IgE bound to histamine rich mast cells and basophils. first exposure they build the antibodies and anaphylaxis will occur at the second exposure but sometimes it happens at the first due to crossreaction.
- **Symptoms:** These are when the patient is awake
 - Anxiety, feeling of impending doom.
 - Rash, itch.
 - Wheeze, shortness of breath.
 - Abdominal pain, diarrhoea, vomiting.
 - Chest pain
- **Signs:** In anesthesia we usually see these
 - Angioedema, e.g. skin, lips, throat.
 - Rash, flushing, urticaria.
 - Tachycardia, bradycardia, dysrhythmias.
 - **Hypotension.**
 - **Bronchospasm.**
- **Treatment:**
 - Basic resuscitation based on Airway Breathing Circulation (ABC)
 - Remove suspected cause
 - Call for help.
 - Give patient 100% oxygen, tracheal intubation if necessary.
 - Elevate legs if hypotension (increases venous return).
 - Start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if needed.
 - **Give epinephrine** 50µg in repeated doses; consider epinephrine infusion. The antidote. (Best thing)
 - Give large volumes of fluid, e.g. normal saline or Hartmann's solution. Or RL to maintain intravascular volume.
- **Secondary treatment:**
 - Chlorpheniramine 10mg (H1 antagonist).
 - Hydrocortisone 200mg.
 - Consider alternative vasopressor if unresponsive to epinephrine.
 - Consider salbutamol i.v. / nebulizer, aminophylline, for persistent bronchospasm.
 - High dependency or intensive care transfer.

Cardiac arrest (advanced life support algorithm)

Figure 24.2 Advanced life support algorithm



- During CPR
 - Ensure high-quality CPR rate, depth, recoil. Measured by End tidal CO₂.
 - Plan actions before interrupting CPR.
 - Give oxygen.
 - Consider advanced airway and capnography.
 - Continuous chest compressions when advanced airway in place.
 - Vascular access (intravenous, intraosseous).
 - Give adrenaline every 3-5 min.
 - Correct reversible causes.
 - **Reversible causes:**
 - ✓ Hypoxia.
 - ✓ Cardiac tamponade
 - ✓ Hypovolaemia.
 - ✓ Toxins.
 - ✓ Hypo-/hyperkalemia/metaboli.
 - ✓ Tension pneumothorax
 - ✓ Hypothermia.
 - ✓ Thrombosis coronary or pulmonary.

Status asthmaticus:

This is a severe acute exacerbation of asthma refractory to conventional β_2 agonist therapy and is a medical emergency.

- Signs:-
 - Tachypnoea.
 - Use of accessory respiratory muscles (e.g. abdominal, sternocleidomastoid), and intercostal and subcostal recession.
 - Wheeze might be minimal or absent.
 - Tachycardia.
 - Pulsus paradoxus >10 mmHg (a reduction in blood pressure on inspiration).
 - Sweating.
 - Tiring.
 - Confusion.

- Treatment:
 - Give supplemental oxygen to maintain SaO₂ 94-98%.
 - β_2 agonist (either salbutamol or terbutaline) via O₂ driven nebulizer.
 - Continuous nebulization can be used if there is a poor initial response.
 - Intravenous β_2 agonists should only be used when the inhaled route is unreliable.
 - Steroids — either oral prednisolone or i.v. hydrocortisone.
 - Nebulized ipratropium (anticholinergic).
 - Consider i.v. magnesium sulphate when life-threatening or poor initial response to treatment.
 - Aminophylline might also be considered in this situation.

★ Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

The role of the anaesthetist is not limited to theatres. There may be a number of postoperative responsibilities to undertake, both in the recovery room and on the surgical ward.

After receiving anesthesia for a surgery or procedure a patient is sent to the PACU to recover and wake up .

- The PACU is a critical care unit where the patient's vital signs are closely observed ,pain management begins , and fluids are given . The nursing staff is skilled in recognizing and managing problems in patients after receiving anesthesia.
- The PACU is under the direction of the Department of Anesthesiology.
- Design should match function
- Location:
 - Close to the OR.

- Access to x-ray, blood bank & clinical labs.
- Monitoring equipment.
- Emergency equipment/
- **Good trained** personnel.

Admission to PACU.

Step:

- Coordinate prior to arrival.
- Assess airway.
- Administer oxygen. **don't wait for the monitors to see if the patient needs oxygen administer anyway.**
- **Apply monitors.**
- Obtain vital signs.
- Receive report from anesthesia personnel.

PACU ASA Standards:

- Standard I → All patients should receive appropriate care.
- Standard II → All patients will be accompanied by one of the anesthesia team. **not only a technician or a nurse.**
- Standard III → The patient will be reevaluated & report given to the nurse.
- Standard IV → The patient shall be continually monitored in the PACU. **every 5-10 minutes.**
- Standard V → A physician will signing for the patient out of the PACU.

Patient Care in the PACU

- Admission
 - Apply **oxygen** and monitor.
 - Receive report.
- Monitor & Observe & Manage
 - To Achieve:
 - Cardiovascular stability.
 - Respiratory stability.
 - Pain control.
- Discharge from PACU. **if oxygen saturation is good**

Monitoring in the PACU

- Baseline vital signs.
- Respiration

- RR/min, Rhythm.
- Pulse oximetry.
- Circulation
 - PR/min & Blood pressure.
 - ECG.
- Level of consciousness.
- Pain scores.

Initial assessment

Color, respiration, circulation, consciousness, activity.

Aldrete score: A scoring system to see if the patient is fit for discharge. (>8 you can discharge).

Score	Activity	Respiration	Circulation	Consciousness	Oxygen Saturation
2	Moves all extremities	Breathes deeply and coughs freely.	BP + 20 mm of pre anesth. level	Fully awake	Spo2 > 92% on room air
1	Moves 2 extremities	Dyspneic, or shallow breathing	BP + 20-50 mm of pre anesth. level	Arousable on calling	Spo2 >90% With suppl. O2
0	Unable to move	Apneic	BP + 50 mm of pre anesth. level	Not responding	Spo2 <92% With suppl. O2

Discharge From the PACU

- Standard Aldrete Score:
 - Simple sum of numerical values assigned to activity, respiration, circulation, consciousness, and oxygen saturation.
 - A score of 9 out of 10 shows readiness for discharge.
- Post-anesthesia Discharge Scoring System:
 - Modification of the Aldrete score which also includes an assessment of pain, N/V, and surgical bleeding, in addition to vital signs and activity.
 - Also, a score of 9 or 10 shows readiness for discharge.

2/4/2015 3:47:58 PM



Discharge criteria from PACU

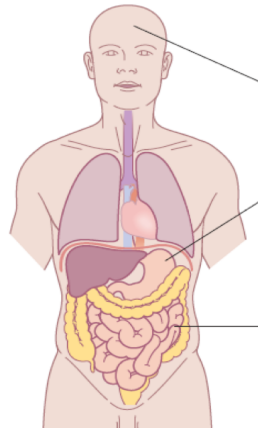
- ❖ Easy arousability
- ❖ Full orientation
- ❖ Ability to maintain & protect airway
- ❖ Stable vital signs for at least 15 – 30 minutes
- ❖ The ability to call for help if necessary
- ❖ No obvious surgical complication (active bleeding)

2/4/2015 3:47:58 PM



Post-operative management

Figure 34.1 Side effects of opioids



Side effect	Potential problems
Respiratory depression, sedation and cough suppression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apnoea, • Gastric aspiration • Respiratory Infection
Nausea and vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrolyte Imbalance • Dehydration and malnutrition • Wound dehiscence • Delayed discharge
Reduction in peristalsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constipation • Ileus and urinary retention • Slow return to GI function after bowel surgery

Common PACU Problems

Common PACU Problems	
Airway obstruction	Bleeding
Hypoxemia	Agitation
Hypoventilation	Delayed recovery
Hypotension	PONV
Hypertension	Pain
Cardiac dysrhythmias	Oliguria
Hypothermia	

● Airway Obstruction

- **Most common: tongue fall back posterior pharynx.**
- May be foreign body.
- **Inadequate relaxant reversal.**
- Residual anesthesia
- Management of Airway Obstruction:
 - Patient's stimulation.
 - Suction.
 - Oral Airway. if he is completely unconscious because if he was conscious he will gag
 - Nasal Airway. if he's awake

- Others: If saturation is not improving

- Tracheal intubation.
- Cricothyroidotomy.
- Tracheotomy.

- **Hypoventilation**

- Residual anesthesia:

- Narcotics.
- Inhalation agent.
- Muscle Relaxant
- Post-op Analgesia
 - Intravenous.
 - Epidural.

- Hypoxia causes agitation so you need to be careful.

- **Venturi Effect: Is used for patients with COPD.** You don't want to give too much oxygen because if you give 100% oxygen they will stop breathing and the drive for breathing in such cases is the hypoxia.

- Treatment of Hypoventilation

- Close observation.
- Assess the problem.
- Treatment of the cause:
 - Reverse (or Antidote):
 - Muscle relaxant → Neostigmine
 - Opioids → Naloxone
 - Midazolam → Anexate

- **Hypertension:**

- Common causes:

- Pain.
- Full Bladder.

- Hypertensive patients.

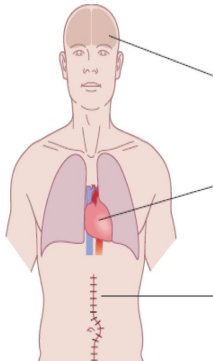
- Fluid overload.

- Excessive use of vasopressors.

- Treatment of Hypertension:

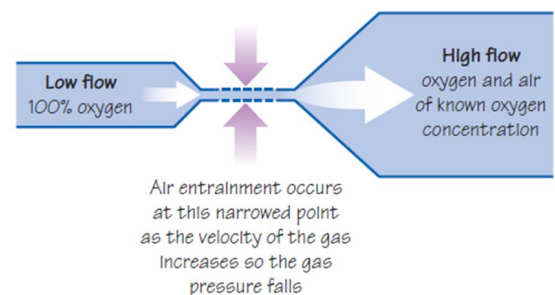
- Effective pain control.
- Sedation

Figure 34.2 Hazards of postoperative hypoxaemia



Hazards	Consequences
CNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cerebral ischaemia ● Confusion ● Postoperative cognitive dysfunction (see Chapter 28)
CVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Myocardial ischaemia and infarction ● Arrhythmias
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduced wound healing ● Increased postoperative infections ● ? Anastomotic breakdown ● ? Bacterial translocation across bowel wall leading to sepsis

Figure 34.3 Venturi effect



- Anti-hypertensives:
 - Beta blockers.
 - Alpha blockers.
 - Hydralazine (Apresoline).
 - Calcium channel blockers

- **Hypotension** Check for the cause
 - Decreased venous return
 - Hypovolemia.
 - ↓ fluid intake.
 - ↑ losses.
 - Bleeding.
 - Sympathectomy.
 - 3rd space loss.
 - Left ventricular dysfunction.
 - If not corrected with fluids the patient will need inotropes.

- **Fluids**
 - Patients will require I.V. fluids until they are able to drink normally.
 - Maintenance and interoperative fluid losses. in maintenance use the 4-2-1 rule but in bleeding use the 3-1 rule where 3 is the crystalloid and 1 colloid.
 - Replacement of **pre-existing** losses (e.g. dehydration preoperatively).
 - Replacement of **postoperative** losses (e.g. nasogastric losses, bleeding).
 - If the bleeding was more than 20% or Hb dropped to 7-8 g/dl then drop to drop meaning blood should be replaced with every drop.
 - The types of fluid are:
 - Isotonic crystalloid (most often used).
 - Colloids (for maintaining intravascular volume, early bleeding).
 - Blood and blood products (for significant haemorrhage, coagulopathy).

- **Dysrhythmias** Very common in PACU (the worst are VTAC or 3rd- degree heart block)
 - Secondary to:
 - Hypoxemia.
 - Hypercarbia.
 - Hypothermia.
 - Acidosis.
 - Catecholamines.
 - Electrolyte abnormalities.

- Treatment of Dysrhythmia
 - ✓ Identify and treat the cause.
 - ✓ Assure oxygenation.
 - ✓ Pharmacological

- **Urine Output**
 - Normal urine output is a good indicator of patient hydration status.
 - Oliguria:
 - Hypovolemia.
 - Surgical trauma.
 - Impaired renal function.
 - Mechanical blocking of catheter.
 - Treatment:
 - ✓ Assess catheter patency
 - ✓ Fluid bolus.
 - ✓ Diuretics e.g. Lasix

- **Post-op bleeding** the patient will have hypotension > know the source > check hemoglobin
 - Causes:
 - Usually Surgical Problem.
 - Coagulopathy.
 - Drug induced.
 - Treatment of Post op Bleeding
 - ✓ Start I.V. lines → push fluids.
 - ✓ Blood sample:
 - CBC.
 - Cross matching.
 - Coagulopathy.
 - ✓ Notify the surgeon.
 - ✓ Correction of the cause.

- **Hypothermia**
 - Most patients will arrive cold.
 - Treatment
 - Try to prevent it before occurring.
 - Get baseline temperature.
 - Actively rewarm.
 - Administer oxygen if shivering.
 - Take care for: (age extremes)

- ✓ Pediatric.
- ✓ Geriatric.

- **Altered mental status**

- Reaction to drugs:
 - Drugs e.g. sedatives, anticholinergics.
 - Intoxication / Drug abusers.
- Pain.
- Full bladder.
- Hypoventilation.
- Low COP.
- CVA.
- Treatment of altered mental status:
 - ✓ Reassurances.
 - ✓ Always protect the patient.
 - ✓ Evaluate the cause.
 - ✓ Treatment of symptoms.
 - ✓ Sedatives/Opioids if necessary.

- **Delayed recovery**

- Systematic evaluation
 - Pre-op status.
 - Intraoperative events.
 - Ventilation.
 - Response to Stimulation.
 - Cardiovascular status
- The most common cause:
 - Residual anesthesia → Consider reversal.
 - Hypothermia.
 - Metabolic e.g. diabetic coma. **DKA may mimic anesthesia**
 - Underlying psychiatric problem.
 - CVA.

- **Postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV)**

- **Risk factors**
 - Type & duration of surgery.
 - Type of anesthesia.

- Drugs.
 - Hormone levels. **Females are more prone.**
 - Medical problems.
 - Autonomic involvement.
- **Prevention of PONV:**
 - NPO status.
 - Dexamethasone. **we give it intra op to prevent PONV**
 - Droperidol.
 - **Metoclopramide.**
 - H2 blockers.
 - Ondansetron.
 - Acupuncture

Table 34.1 Drugs used for multimodal analgesia

Drug	Side effects
Opioids	See Figure 34.1
NSAIDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleeding, especially gastrointestinal • Gastrointestinal perforation • Asthma, renal failure • Myocardial and cerebral thrombosis
Paracetamol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver dysfunction in overdose
Local anaesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac and CNS toxicity

- **Post-operative pain:**
 - Causes:
 - Incisional skin and subcutaneous tissue.
 - Laparoscopy: insufflation of Co2
 - Others:
 - Deep: cutting, coagulation, trauma
 - Positional: nerve compression, traction & bed sore.
 - IV site: needle trauma, extravasation, venous irritation.
 - Tubes: drains, nasogastric tube, ETT. **particularly chest tube**
 - Surgical: complication of surgery
 - Others: cast, dressing too tight, urinary retention.

Table 34.2 Common methods of administering analgesics

Analgesic	Method
Opioids	I.m., i.v. (PCA), epidural/spinal, oral, intra-articular
Paracetamol	i.v. and oral (rarely p.r.)
NSAIDs	Oral, p.r., i.v.
Local anaesthetic	Wound, epidural/spinal, various nerve blocks. Intra-articular

- Referral to high dependency unit/intensive care unit:

Table 34.3 Levels of postoperative care

Level of care	
0 (ward)	Patients needs met on normal ward
1 (HDU)	Patients at risk of their condition deteriorating, or who require advice from the ICU team
2 (ICU)	Patients with a single failing organ system or requiring detailed observation/Intervention
3 (ICU)	Patients requiring ventilation (alone), advanced respiratory support alone or support of at least two organ systems

Practice Questions:

Q1: Which one of the following is the sign of aspiration of gastric content?

- A. Decreased airway pressure
- B. Decreased oxygen saturation
- C. Functioning airway reflexes
- D. Decreased blood pressure

Q2: What is the most common cause of airway obstruction in PACU?

- A. Tongue fall
- B. Laryngeal spasm
- C. Residual muscle relaxant
- D. Narcotic overdose

Q3: What will be the aldrete score at which the patient will be ready for discharge from PACU?

- A. 9 out of 10
- B. 8 out of 10
- C. 3 out of 10
- D. 1 out of 10

Q4: A patient presented with severe shortness of breath and generalized skin rash associated with itching, hypotension, severe bronchospasm and laryngeal edema.

What is the life saving medication for this patient?

- A. Loratadine
- B. H2 blocker
- C. Epinephrine
- D. Hydrocortisone

Q5: A young male patient post had PNS excision was transferred to PACU, what is the first thing to check?

- A. BP
- B. oxygenation
- C. pulse rate
- D. temperature

Q6: Factors predisposing to post operative hypothermia?

- A. mismatched transfusion
- B. malignant hyperthermia
- C. hyperthyroidism
- D. age and duration of surgery

Q7: A lady had laparoscopic cholecystectomy under general anaesthesia. She is now in the post anesthesia care unit (PACU) and had vomited three times. Which one of the following drugs is the most effective for controlling her vomiting intravenously?

- A. Pethidine
- B. Metoclopramide
- C. Morphine sulphate
- D. Navidoxin

Q8. Which ONE of the following conditions calls the anesthetist to check adult patient before discharge from post anesthesia care unit (PACU)?

- A. SpO₂ 93% on room air.
- B. Respiratory rate between 4 - 5.
- C. Temperature between 36.5 - 37.5°C.
- D. Unable to move lower limbs after epidural anesthesia.

Answers:

Q1: B | Q2: A | Q3: A | Q4: C | Q5: B | Q6: D | Q7: B | Q8: B |