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PACU update: The cardiac patient undergoing non-cardiac surgery

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The Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) is a key element in ensuring a successful operative experience. Recovery from surgery is dependent on a transition from intensive focus of the operating room to a safe care in the hospital ward or home after surgery. The key area of transition is the Post-anesthesia Care Unit. It is the PACU that the patient 'awakens' from anesthesia. Respiratory function has to be maintained and stable vital signs have to be assured. In addition, pain issues as well as post-operative nausea have to be addressed. In an effort to facilitate throughput, each type of surgery is establishing protocols to aid in rapid recovery, minimize pain, increase ambulation and decrease hospital stay. What are the keys to ensuring patient safety in the PACU? What are the special issues for the cardiac patient undergoing non-cardiac surgery?

Biography

A D John completed BA from Harvard University and MD from New York Medical College. He has done his Internal Medical Residency from Metro West Medical Center; Framingham, MA and Anesthesia and Critical Care Residency from Johns Hopkins Hospital; Baltimore, MD. He has done Cardiac Anesthesia subspecialty in Johns Hopkins Hospital; Baltimore, MD and Cardiac Anesthesiology Fellowship from Massachusetts General Hospital; Boston, MA. He is an instructor at Harvard Medical School; Boston, MA and also at Johns Hopkins School; Baltimore, MD. He is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Baltimore, MD. He served as a Coeditor with Sancho Rodrigues-Villar for Protocols in Critical Care (in Press) and as an Editor for Anesthesia: Essential Clinical Updates for Provider (in Press)

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