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What preoperative information do the parents of children undergoing surgery want?

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Introduction: Parents feel fear and anxiety before elective surgery is performed on their child, and those feelings could obstruct their preparation for surgery. Pre-operative information could relieve those feelings.

Objective: To determine the preoperative information needs of parents of children undergoing elective surgery.

Patients & Method: A study was conducted on parents of children who underwent elective surgery. Demographic data of parents were recorded. Preoperative information received or would like to have received was assessed in terms of contents, methods, opportunity, place and informant. Descriptive statistics were used.

Results: Thirteen hundred parents were surveyed. More than 80% of them want preoperative information about anesthesia, surgery, preoperative fasting, drugs and anesthetic complications, monitoring, intravenous line management, pain treatment, postoperative feeding, anxiety control, hospitalization room, recovery room and entertainment in recovery room. Most want to be informed verbally, one to two weeks in advance and not on the same day of surgery. The informant should be the surgeon and in his office. In addition, they want information through leaflets, videos and simulation workshops, or guided tours.

Conclusions: Parents need complete preoperative information about anesthesia, surgery and postoperative care, received verbally and in advance.

Biography

Alejandro Gonzalez is Anesthetist who performed a Fellow in Pediatric Anesthesia at Melbourne, Australia, in 1999. Since then, he has been working in Pediatric and Outpatient Anesthesia. He was Director of an Ambulatory Surgery Center for five years (2001-2005), and he also was President of The Chilean Society of Anesthesiologists (2007-2009). He has published several papers about outpatient anesthesia and pediatric anesthesia.

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