

NEW CONCEPTS IN AMBULATORY ANAESTHESIA FOR ADULTS

An Essay

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا)

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صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

Abstract

Over the last three decades outpatient surgery has grown at an exponential rate, progressing from the practice of performing simple procedures on healthy outpatients to a broad spectrum of patient care in freestanding ambulatory surgery centers.

With advances in surgical technologies and the rapid growth of minimally invasive surgery, a wide variety of operations may now be performed on an outpatient basis.

Key words :

General Anesthesia – Epidural - Cyclo-Oxygenase .

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Abbreviation List

5HT	5-Hydroxytryptamine (serotonin).
ASA	American Society of Anesthesiologists.
ASU	Ambulatory Surgery Unit.
BIS	Bispectral Index.
BMI	Body Mass Index.
CHF	Congestive Heart Failure.
CNB	Central Neuroaxial Block.
COX	Cyclo-Oxygenase.
CP	Chloroprocaine.
CVA	Cerebro-Vascular Attack.
EMLA	Eutectic Mixture of Local Anesthetics.
ENT	Ear Nose and Throat.
EPI	Epidural.
FASA	Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association.
GA	General Anesthesia.
IM	Intramuscular.
IT	Intrathecal.
IV	Intra Venous.
IVRA	Intra Venous Regional Anesthesia.
LMA	Laryngeal Mask Airway.
LOS	Length Of Stay.
MAC	Minimal Alveolar Concentration.
MI	Myocardial Infarction.
NDMRs	Non Depolarizing Muscle Relaxants.
NMDA	N-Methyl-D-Aspartate.
NPO	Non Per Os.
NSAIDs	Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs.

OR	Operating Room.
PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit.
PCA	Patient Controlled Analgesia.
PDPH	Post Dural Puncture Headache.
PNB	Peripheral Nerve Block.
PO	Per Oral.
POCD	Post Operative Cognitive Dysfunction.
PONV	Post Operative Nausea and Vomiting.
PR	Per Rectum.
RA	Regional Anesthesia.
SQ	Subcutaneous.
TC	Transcutaneous.
TIA	Transient Ischemic Attack.
UK	United Kingdom.



INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK



Introduction

Ambulatory surgery has evolved considerably over the past two decades, with more complex procedures being performed, and more ASA class III patients being eligible. This progress, while driven partly by health care economics, has evolved through expanded scientific research in all areas of ambulatory anesthesia. Evolution of anesthetic pharmacology, including new drugs and better understanding of their complex interactions, as well as more targeted regional anesthetic techniques, have had an enormous impact. Another key area of development is facilitation of patient recovery and discharge from the post anesthesia care unit (PACU) and step-down unit, or ambulatory surgical unit (ASU). Ambulatory surgery will continue to grow and expand. Continued advances in surgical techniques (e.g., minimally invasive surgery), anesthetic pharmacology, regional anesthesia, and postoperative analgesia, will allow even more complex procedures to be conducted on an ambulatory basis. **(1-4).**

Discharge scoring systems will help to facilitate discharge. Improved understanding of potential complications, updating patient information and clinical pathways based upon current

best evidence, and addressing patient escort and driving issues, will help to ensure the safe recovery and discharge of patients following their outpatient procedures. **(5-8)**

Today there is a continued trend to expand the indications for ambulatory surgery. We are constantly being confronted with the need for change in our clinical practice.

Aim of the Work

The aim of this essay is to provide an overview and update of specific issues related to indications for ambulatory anesthesia, patient selection, the use of fast-track concept and also to highlight issues related to postoperative patient assessment and causes of delayed discharge.



Preoperative Care



Preoperative care

A day-case patient is one who is admitted for investigation or operation on a planned non-resident basis. Patients are usually discharged from the hospital or unit later on the day of the procedure. The procedure may require general, regional or local anesthesia, sedative techniques or a combination of these (2).

Increasingly complex cases are now performed as day Procedures, including laparoscopic cholecystectomy and tonsillectomy. By extending day surgery opening Hours and using staggered admission times, patients who would normally require hospital admission may be treated as day cases. The Audit Commission report for the year 2000 showed expansion in the number of procedures performed as day cases compared to 1996, but highlighted 120 000 patients treated as inpatients who may have been appropriate as day cases (2).

Ambulatory surgery is rapidly growing world wide. In the past decade, the number of ambulatory surgical procedures has grown from 3.2 Million to more than 21 million annually in the United States alone and 50%–70% of all surgical procedures in North America are now performed on an ambulatory basis (11).

Advantages of outpatient's surgery:

- 1- Significant reduction in medical care costs.
- 2- More efficient use of operating rooms.
- 3- Convenience to the patient (decrease time away from home, family, and work).
- 4- Reduced stress and emotional disturbance to patients.
- 5- Reduced risk of infection, particularly in the immuno-suppressed patient.
- 6- Lack of dependence of availability of hospital beds.
- 7- Less preoperative testing and preoperative medications.
- 8- Greater flexibility in scheduling operations (79).