

Anesthesia and Patient Safety

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Anesthesiologist plays a role in the recovery of the patient without any risk with the ideal anesthesia management, under the responsibility that the science of anesthesiology is not a preventive, protective, therapeutic method alone.

The practice of anesthesia requires a high level of medical expertise as well as significant practical skill, and most importantly, anesthesia is a team effort. In many cases, the responsibility of not only the expert but also the departments and regulatory authorities that set up the system should be considered. Therefore, the appropriate method for patient safety should often be the systems approach. However, this does not remove the responsibility that each doctor should strive for quality, safe approach and excellence in his work for his patient [1].

In the historical development of the science of anesthesia; It is aimed to prevent the harmful effects of severe surgical interventions, which is a significant trauma to the body, to ensure the survival of the patients, to perform the surgical procedures comfortably and to regain the affected health [2, 3].

Therefore, patient safety is of great importance in anesthesia.

Patient safety is defined as “precautionary and improvement activities that can be taken to keep all foreseeable hazards at an acceptable level of risk that may cause harm to all stakeholders”.

Practices related to patient safety have been created with the aim of learning from and correcting the system based on errors that have occurred or have not yet emerged [4, 5].

As a matter of fact, in the report published by the International Institute of Medicine in 1999, the science of anesthesiology was praised as the first branch of science that initiated studies on patient safety [6].

After identifying patient safety problems in anesthesiology, strategies were developed to increase safety.

Since the 1980s, standards and guidelines have been created and put into effect by anesthesiologists. Standards include subjects such as equipment, equipment, drugs and IV fluids, monitoring and anesthesia management, as well as patient transfer, anesthesia work environment arrangement [7, 8].

With the technological developments, the application of new drugs and standards, the rate of complications and death due to anesthesia has been decreasing over the years. While it has decreased to 1 in 200 000 in developed countries, anesthesia-related mortality rates are still 1 in 300 in underdeveloped countries [9].

Therefore, the need for standardization studies continues. One of the strategies that increase patient safety is to provide solutions to problems with technological methods and to use electronic safety devices. Anesthesiologists are the earliest medical group to achieve this. They have become experts in patient monitoring, both as clinical follow-up and with the help of technology.

Anesthesia is complex in nature and potentially very dangerous, and its safe administration requires significant practical skill as well

as a high level of expertise in medical diagnosis, pharmacology, physiology and anatomy. Therefore, safe anesthesia practices require effective communication and teamwork among all healthcare professionals. Although the practice of anesthesia varies from country to country, from clinic to clinic, all anesthesia providers should be trained to a nationally recognized standard. Every anesthesia clinic should standardize the design of workstations by taking into account the common habits of its employees (doctor, technician, nurse, assistant health personnel) and the priority of the job [10].

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