

Announcement

Guidelines for Safe Anesthesia

April 21, 1993

In order to maintain and encourage the safety of all patients undergoing anesthetic care, the Japan Society of Anesthesiology (JSA) has adopted the following minimal guidelines that apply for the administration of general, epidural and spinal anesthesia.

Guidelines for Minimal Monitoring

1. The physician in charge of each anesthetic administration shall always be present in order to watch the patient continually so that he/she may provide the patient with appropriate anesthesia care.
2. To ensure adequate oxygenation of the patient, monitoring by pulse oximetry shall be employed. In addition the color of the patient's skin, mucous membranes and blood shall also be assessed.
3. Clinical signs such as observation of chest excursions, observation of the reservoir breathing bag and auscultation of breath sounds shall be assessed in order to ensure adequate ventilation of the patient. Monitoring end-tidal CO₂ with capnographic wave-form is highly recommended; and monitoring of expired gas volumes is also recommended when it is clinically indicated.
4. Every patient should be evaluated by at least one of the following in order to ensure adequacy of his/her circulatory function: auscultation of heart sounds; palpation of arterial pulses; pulse plethysmography; and monitoring of arterial blood pressure tracing.
Every patient shall have their electrocardiogram continuously displayed, and their blood pressure and heart rate shall be measured and evaluated at least every five minutes throughout an anesthetic procedure. Invasive arterial blood pressure monitoring should be available to those patients where it is clinically indicated.
5. The patient's temperature shall be continually monitored in order to control it appropriately.
6. The adequacy of muscle relaxation shall be monitored when it is clinically indicated.

Note: The anesthesia machine and associated equipment shall be tested according to the anesthetic apparatus pre-operative checklist and maintenance manual previously established by the Japan Society of Anesthesiology in 1990.

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