Surgery-Anesthesia2013
OMICS Group Conferences
Accelerating Scientific Discovery
2nd International Conference on
Surgery and Anesthesia
September 16-18, 2013 Las Vegas, USA

Comprehensive approach to patient care in post-operative recovery

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Abstract

Recovery from anesthesia can range from completely uncomplicated to life-threatening situation. Post Anesthesia Care Unit must be managed by skilled medical and nursing personnel. Anesthesiologist plays a key role in optimizing safe recovery from anesthesia. Assess patients' needs to provide individual and holistic care postoperatively. When the patients care is transferred from the Operation room staff to recovery it is important to have the handover to be able to carry on further recovery management. Details of anesthesia and surgery: Fluid/blood loss and replacement, Analgesia given during surgery, Completed drug chart for required post-op analgesia, anti-emetics and IV fluids and other relevant drugs is part of the important information to provide. Location of PACU is essential with immediate access to blood bank, X-ray unit, Blood gas and clinical labs. An open ward is optimal for patient observation, with at least one isolation room, Central nursing station, piped oxygen, air, and vacuum for suction. The Unit requires good ventilation, as the exposure to waste anesthetic gases may be hazardous. The PACU nurse basic training requirements are: Airway management, Basic life support, Advanced cardiac life support (Morgan et al., 2006), Caring for acute surgical wounds, Caring for a variety of drainage catheters. Nurse-to-patient ratios: 1:1 initial 15 minutes, as the patient emerge from anesthesia, 2:1 for critically ill, unstable, complicated problems, newly admitted, on mechanical ventilator with an artificial airway, 1:2 once patient is CSU (conscious, stable, and uncomplicated) and USU (unconscious, but stable and uncomplicated), 1:3 to 1:6 all CSU and being considered for discharge. Function assessment method & Team approach method of nursing care to a set of 10 patients in a Post-operative unit has helped in our setting. These will be elaborated in the article.

Biography

Naveen Kumar. P is a distinguished faculty in Hospital Administration, with M.D. in Hospital Administration from Manipal University, starting his career with Department of Hospital Administration at NIMS, Hyderabad, worked in various teaching institutions imparting post-graduate education. He has guided many post-graduate students in their project works & dissertation studies for the fulfillment of MBA, MHA, and PGDHM in Health & Hospital Management. He has to his credit published 8 research articles in areas of Medical Records, Medication Errors, e-prescription systems, Manpower Utilisation studies in indexed journals. His areas of interest are Healthcare Marketing, Customer Service & Relationship Management, Human Resources Management, Quality Management, and Administration of Clinical & Non-clinical Services.