Elevating the Role of the Anaesthetist in NMB Management

Jan Paul Mulier, MD, PhD
Like an engineer in a great steamship,… Fundamental knowledge of physiologic phenomena… No routinist, no tyro, no cocksure,…

– Saxton Pope. The relation of the surgeon to the anesthesiologist. Cal State J Med. 1922; 20: 385

OR-manager improving overall quality and efficiency of economic resources

– Gebhard E. OR-manager: surgeon or anesthesiologist? An interdisciplinary study Anaesthesist. 2003; 52:1062

Managing high-performing and high-reliability teams to achieve high-quality surgical care

Recognition by the patients: Anaesthetists often remain in anonymity.

- Wetchler BV. Patients don’t know who we are. ASA Newsletter 1994; 58:2–4.
- Kindler CH The patients' perception of the anaesthetist. Anaesthesist 2002; 51:890

Recognition by the surgeon: Anaesthetists are often seen as coffee drinkers, barriring surgical work for ‘safety’

- Gfrörer R. Role expectations of various professional groups in the operating theatre. Anaesthesist. 2007; 56:1163.
Safety in anaesthesia has increased a lot!
- While surgical safety is still 10 times less!
- PONV, post-operative pain, and discomfort are important to the patient but are these recognised by the surgeon?

Danger of losing attention, scientific interest.

Solution:
- Make anaesthesia more meaningful for surgeons.
- Try, as an anaesthetist, to be involved in improving surgical patient outcome.
The Evolving Role of the Anaesthetist

• Being a team is not enough
  – Everyone plays only his role

• Being a transdisciplinary team is the future
  – Improve the surgical work using your skills, knowledge and approach as an anaesthetist.
    • In bariatric surgery anaesthesia reduced post operative bleeding, post operative leaks

• NMB have been used to improve anaesthesia induction, intubation, and to facilitate ventilation…

• Today, NMB should be used to improve surgery
  – Better working conditions
  – Potential for faster work/improved efficiency
  – Opportunity to reduce complications/improve outcomes
J F Kennedy

- Inventor of the “transdisciplinarity”
  - Ask not only “what the country can do for you” ask also “what you can do for your country.”

- Same question to the surgeons
  - ‘Ask not only what the anaesthetist can do for you, ask also what you can do for the anaesthetist.’
Video with NMB abdominal compliance measuring
Break

Please proceed to your next workshop assignment for Session 2 promptly at 18:00.
Please proceed to the Barcelona Ballroom for the remainder of today’s sessions.