

Perioperative Nursing

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Gratia M. Nagle

Preoperative Nursing Assessment of the Surgical Patient 135

Andrea Bray

Thorough assessment of the surgical patient begins in the preoperative phase and extends throughout the perioperative experience. Patient-centered interviews gather critical data that contribute to a successful experience and a focused plan of care. Information collected, documented, and conveyed to the surgeon or physician assists in appropriate medical decision making. This article focuses on perioperative nursing assessment tools and discusses issues pertinent to achieving safe delivery of care. A broad overview touches on key topics that deserve exploration and evaluation. This article will hopefully serve as a useful tool that helps direct the decision-making process.

Prevention, Recognition, and Management of Nursing Complications in the Intraoperative and Postoperative Surgical Patient

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Diana L. Wadlund

A review of the literature focusing on postoperative complications reveals that the best available tools to the medical and surgical teams are recognition and prevention. This article highlights the more common postsurgical adverse events and discusses methods for preventing and treating these occurrences.

Positioning Impact on the Surgical Patient

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Mary Patricia O'Connell

The operating room is unknown territory to most health care providers. It frequently brings up thoughts of blood, strange smells, and cold temperatures. Many nursing programs have scheduled little, if any, time in this environment for students. As a result, few nurses who practice outside of this specialized area understand the patient care events that occur in the operating room. Those who have selected the operating room for their work environment know that it is a somewhat isolated period in the perioperative experience. This article provides insight into this area of patient care and a greater understanding of how patients are positioned, the physiologic impact of these positions, and some consequences that may impact the postoperative care of these patients.

Comparison of Operating Room Lasers: Uses, Hazards, Guidelines

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Phyllis M. Houck

Although the discovery of laser light no longer can be termed recent, it took the medical community a long time to use its technology. Every day, advances are being made in laser technology, and new applications are being discovered for this modality. Because lasers allow for the capture, control, and manipulation of energy, it is important for nurses to understand the basic biophysics of lasers. As lasers are being used in most surgical settings and specialties, it is important for the perioperative nurse to have a basic knowledge of each wave length, type of laser, indications for its use, and safety considerations.

Laparoscopy: Risks, Benefits, and Complications

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Diana L. Wadlund

This article discusses the benefits and risks of laparoscopy. Also discussed are complications of laparoscopy and methods to avoid or treat these adversities.

How Religion, Language, and Ethnicity Impact Perioperative Nursing Care

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Donna M. DeFazio Quinn

Religion, language, and ethnicity play important roles in the perioperative arena. This article highlights some of the challenges that religion, language, and ethnicity can present and offers strategies for making the experience as positive as possible for all patients.

Bariatric Surgery Risks, Benefits, and Care of the Morbidly Obese

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Tracy Martinez Owens

The American Society for Bariatric Surgery defines morbid obesity as a lifelong, progressive, life-threatening, genetically-related, costly, multifactorial disease of excess fat storage with multiple comorbidities. Obesity satisfies the definition of morbid obesity when it reaches the point of significant risk for obesity-related comorbidities. These significant comorbidities often result in either significant physical disability or even death. Obesity results from excessive accumulation of fat that exceeds the body skeletal and physical standards. Morbid obesity is defined as being at least 100 lb heavier than ideal body weight, or a body mass index (BMI) of 40. BMI is calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the height in meters squared. This article focuses on the causes, treatment, and perioperative nursing care of patients who are morbidly obese.

Unique Concerns of the Pediatric Surgical Patient: Pre-, Intra-, and Postoperatively

Dolly Ireland

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This article focuses on the unique concerns of pediatric surgical patients and emphasizes preparation of the family as an integrated unit. The statement from older standards of the American Nurses' Association that "children have the right to be treated with dignity and respect" remains a valid challenge for nurses caring for these patients.

Management of the Special Needs of the Pregnant Surgical Patient

Sharon Romanoski

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This article summarizes the nursing care that should be provided to the pregnant patient during surgery and gives a brief discussion of the physiology of pregnancy as it relates to surgery and anesthesia. An overview of anesthesia considerations is presented and the nursing process using the guidelines for pregnant patients from the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses is discussed, followed by nursing considerations for the most common surgical procedures that pregnant women undergo.

Nursing Considerations in the Geriatric Surgical Patient: The Perioperative Continuum of Care

Myrna Eileen Mamaril

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Although aging is a natural process, caring for an older person is not the same as caring for a middle-aged adult person. The perioperative and perianesthesia nurses need to be competent in geriatric nursing care and possess specialized knowledge and skills related to a myriad of geriatric issues. This article focuses on the special needs of the elderly population and how the perioperative nursing team may address their care best.

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