

ANESTHESIA

In general, we defer intraoperative anesthetic choice to the anesthesiologist, patient, and surgeon.

Post-op Epidurals

- T or L spine
- Common in abdominal surgery, also in lower extremity (LE) orthopedic surgery
- Side effects: headache, hypotension, lower extremity numbness
- The Foley does not come out until the epidural is removed
- Anticoagulation¹:
 - SC heparin 5000 units Q8H: No restrictions.
 - Enoxaparin, prophylactic dose (e.g. 40 mg sc daily): Hold 12 hrs prior to catheter placement and 12 hrs after removal.
 - Others: Discuss with Pain Service

Spinals

- L spine only
- Medication directly into CSF (uses very low doses)
- Used in lower abdominal, urologic, GYN, LE orthopedic surgery

Cardiac Anesthesia Review

Consider requesting an evaluation by the cardiac anesthesiology service for patients with moderate to severe aortic stenosis, severe coronary heart disease, and moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension. The goal is to identify high risk patients early and also to avoid unnecessary cancellations.

Speak to the anesthesiologist in the Pre Anesthesia Clinic, provide the pertinent data, and request a "Cardiac Anesthesia Review". The covering cardiac anesthesiologist will review the case and document his/her opinion.

Anesthesia terms:

ASA Class²:

- I-Healthy
- II-Mild systemic disease
- III-Severe systemic disease
- IV-Severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life
- V-Moribund, not expected to survive without the operation

This classification system has been shown to be predictive of perioperative complications and mortality (e.g. one study showed mortality rates of 0.1, 0.7, 3.5, and 18.3 % for ASA class I, II, III, and IV, respectively³)

Mallampati class: Refers to the accessibility of the oral airway as seen by the patient opening his or her mouth while seated. Ranges from Class I (can see back of throat, uvula, etc) to Class IV (can only see hard palate).

1. <http://www.uwmcacc.org/> UWMC Anticoagulation Clinic website
2. <http://www.asahq.org/clinical/physicalstatus.htm> ASA website, accessed online 10/1/07.
3. Wolters, U. et al. ASA classification and perioperative variables as predictors of postoperative outcome. *British Journal of Anaesthesia* 1996; 77: 217–222.