Monitoring in the peri-operative period

An online-only special issue from *Anaesthesia*

This special issue looks at the implications of and new technology relevant to the AAGBI Standards of Monitoring during Anaesthesia and Recovery. Learn more in this free special issue from *Anaesthesia.*

Up to 48% of patients suffer from delirium (confusion). Use of cerebral oximetry monitoring may reduce neurological complications including delirium.

Anaesthetists must always be present to monitor their patients during surgery, but who is monitoring the anaesthetists themselves? Important to assess the competence of clinically active anaesthetists regularly during their whole career.

10–40% patients may have residual weakness after use of neuromuscular blocking drugs – new quantitative monitoring can reduce residual weakness and associated respiratory complications.

1 in 6000 to 1 in 19,000 patients may suffer recall after surgery and remember events while they were asleep. Depth of anaesthesia or sedation monitoring is recommended in certain circumstances to reduce awareness and recall. New monitors may soon also allow live measurement of drug concentrations.

Approximately 2.7 million surgical procedures are performed each year in the UK, with 4% of patients dying and many more suffering complications. Implementation of monitoring has been shown to improve safety and reduce complications.

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