

Paediatric Day Case Surgery

Remits for quality care – Anaesthetic Considerations

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Day case surgery in children


- Procedures
 - Duration, trauma, post-op pain
- Patient selection
 - Healthy children
 - Chronic stable conditions
 - Exclusion criteria
 - Social factors

Preassessment

- Assess fitness for day care
- Where and how?
 - Surgical clinic (consent)
 - Screening questionnaire
 - Telephone preassessment
 - Preassessment clinic
- Investigations rarely required
- Inform and prepare child and parent

Preparation

- Anxiety and adverse sequelae can be reduced by good preparation – of parent and child
- Options include:
 - Books
 - Films
 - Puppet shows
 - Relaxation training
 - Preadmission tours
 - Role play
 - Interactive computer packages
 - Improvement in coping strategies



Preoperative reading



Anaesthetic considerations

- Minor illness
- Premedication
- Induction
- Airway management
- Maintenance
- Fluids
- Analgesia
- Post-operative vomiting
- Discharge

Analgesia

- Multi-modal approach
 - Paracetamol
 - NSAIDs
 - Local anaesthesia
 - Opioids
- Importance of good pain assessment
- Good practice in postoperative and procedural pain (APAGBI)



Prevention of Post-op Vomiting

- Children at increased risk of POV
 - IV ondansetron 0.15mg.kg⁻¹ prophylaxis
- Children at high risk of POV
 - IV ondansetron 0.05mg.kg⁻¹ and
 - IV dexamethasone 0.15mg.kg⁻¹ prophylaxis
 - Consider TIVA and alternatives to opioids
- Cyclizine is not recommended for use in children



Quality Metrics

- Provides a marker of quality against which clinical care may be measured
- Proposals for paediatric anaesthesia
 - % of consultants who anaesthetise >20 children <5 years of age
 - % children operated upon on children-only lists (or on children-only parts of lists)
 - Presence of an acute pain team providing care and services to children and regular pain assessment
 - The provision of a child-friendly and child-safe environment in theatres separate from adults
 - The opportunity for a parent/carer to be present in the anaesthetic room and recovery room
 - The presence of protocols for the management of paediatric emergencies where children are anaesthetised

Anaesthetic quality

- Preassessment
 - On-the-day cancellations
 - (fasting, URTI, inadequate preparation)
- Unexpected admission rate
 - Uncontrolled pain
 - Post-operative vomiting
 - Anaesthetic complication
 - Delayed recovery
- Pain at home
 - Discharge medication / advice