

Teaching Geriatric Anesthesia to Medical Students

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CONTEXT:

An estimated eight million surgical procedures are performed annually in geriatric patients. In 2000, 12% (35 million) of the U.S. population was over the age of 65 and is predicted to rise to 20% (72 million) by 2030.

NEED:

Currently established teaching practices need to be modified to better prepare future physicians for the peri-operative management of the geriatric patient.

ACTION:

We are creatively integrating teaching geriatric anesthesia into our current medical student curriculum. Medical students enrolled in the anesthesiology elective will participate in a two-hour DVD/computer simulator module. The DVD based segment allows for independent study and contains peri-operative interviews with actual geriatric patients interspersed with didactic basic science and clinical teaching modules. It highlights bio-psychosocial concerns surrounding anesthesia and the surgical experience, and documents immediate, short- and long-term recovery and outcome. Additionally, the linked simulator sessions provide students with an interactive, hands-on opportunity to apply newly learned concepts of geriatric physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology to anesthesia. Evaluation will consist of pre- and post-course surveys and tests for each module.

IMPACT:

Anesthesiology is a very popular elective among medical students at our institution, with 75-80% of students rotating through the curriculum. Utilizing this innovative teaching medium during this elective is the most effective way to supplement the current curriculum with core concepts of geriatric anesthesia.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.asahq.org/clinical/geriatrics/syllabus>.

Support:

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