Anesthesiology: Core EPA #18

Providing perioperative anesthetic management for patients undergoing thoracic surgery

Key Features:
- This EPA includes preoperative assessment, investigation/optimization if needed, informed consent, anesthetic management, invasive monitoring if required and determination of postoperative disposition for patients undergoing thoracic surgery.
- This EPA focuses on strategies for lung isolation and lung protection as well as perioperative pain management strategies especially in the context of thoracotomy (e.g. epidural or paravertebral block).
- The observations of this EPA must include pulmonary resection surgery by thoracotomy or thoracoscopy, and preoperative assessment and anesthetic management of anterior mediastinal mass.
- Clear effective intraoperative communication with surgeons is an important part of this EPA.

Assessment plan - recommendations

Direct observation by supervisor

Use Form 1 or local alternative. Form collects information on:
- Type of surgery: thoracotomy; thoracoscopy; other surgery
- Type of procedure: lung resection; pneumonectomy; esophagectomy; mediastinoscopy; surgery for anterior mediastinal mass; other
- Timing: elective; emergency
- Technique for lung isolation: none; double lumen tube; bronchial block; other technique

Collect observations from a large breadth of training experiences with the expectations not all will be achieved, with a minimum of 8 observations of achievement
- At least one lung resection
- At least one anterior mediastinal mass (can be completed by simulation or case discussion)

Relevant milestones

1 **ME 1.1** Demonstrate commitment and accountability for patients in their care

2 **ME 1.3** Apply knowledge of anatomy to lung isolation technique

3 **ME 1.4** Perform appropriately-timed preoperative clinical assessments with recommendations that are well-organized and properly documented in written and/or oral form

4 **ME 2.2** Select and interpret appropriate preoperative investigations based on the planned procedure and patient’s comorbidities

5 **ME 3.1** Integrate all sources of information to develop a management plan that is
safe, patient-centred, and considers the risks and benefits of all approaches

6 ME 3.1 Integrate all sources of information to develop a plan for lung isolation and considers the risks and benefits of all approaches

7 ME 3.4 Perform the anesthetic management and all related technical procedures in a skillful and safe manner, adapting to unanticipated findings or changing clinical circumstances

8 ME 3.4 Establish and implement a plan for post-anesthesia care

9 ME 3.4 Demonstrate effective procedure preparation, including gathering required equipment, and patient monitoring and positioning

10 ME 3.4 Optimize the patient and surgical conditions throughout the procedure, anticipating, preventing and treating complications in relation with the specific procedure

11 COM 1.5 Recognize when strong emotions (such as, anger, fear, anxiety, or sadness) are affecting an interaction and respond appropriately

12 COM 4.3 Obtain and document informed consent for the planned anesthetic management in a manner that engages the patients and their families using established principles of effective communication

13 COM 5.1 Document clinical encounters to adequately convey clinical reasoning and the rationale for decisions

14 COM 5.1 Adapt record keeping to the specific guidelines of anesthesiology and the clinical context

15 COL 1.2 Interact effectively with surgeons during all aspects of the procedure

16 COL 3.2 Organize the handover of care to the most appropriate physician or health care professional

17 L 3.1 Assume a leadership role in managing complex cases in the OR

18 HA 1.2 Apply the principles of behaviour change during conversations with patients about adopting healthy behaviours

19 S 3.4 Identify new evidence appropriate to their scope of professional practice through quality-appraised evidence-alerting services.

20 P 2.1 Demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and enhancing competence

21 P 2.2 Demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and quality improvement through adherence to institutional policies and procedures