Preface

Pre-operative Management of the Patient with Chronic Disease

Perioperative medicine is constantly evolving. Today, patients are offered surgical interventions for increasingly difficult medical problems and despite complicated comorbidities or advanced age. Pre-operative options for diagnostic and therapeutic interventions are constantly changing and thereby expanding opportunities for improved patient care. The increased complexity of patients presenting for surgery requires clinicians to remain current with the latest knowledge of and recommendations regarding treatment of specific disease states. This is not only challenging for those treating patients during the perioperative period, but also particularly difficult for the diverse group of clinicians charged with preparing and optimizing patients scheduled for surgery. Moreover, it requires better communication than ever between all clinicians involved in preparing patients for surgery and optimizing their status based on their individual needs.

As active perioperative physicians we were therefore delighted about the opportunity to present an entire issue of articles dedicated to Pre-operative Management of the Patient with Chronic Disease for the Medical Clinics of North America. We have invited a number of national experts in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine to summarize current knowledge and advice about optimal pre-operative preparation of patients with pre-existing health problems. While many more chronic health problems exist than can be covered in this issue, we have selected the most prevalent topics that health care workers may encounter during pre-operative preparation of adult patients who are scheduled to undergo surgery. This issue of the Medical Clinics of North America compiles outstanding new review articles that will allow all involved clinicians to better identify and address specific pre-operative challenges of their patients.

The presentation of the contributions in this issue follows a system-based approach. Drs Martz and Sappenfield address key challenges in the pre-operative optimization in
patients with diseases of the central nervous system, including cerebrovascular co-
morbidities. Dr Turakhia and coauthors in their article on patients with neuromuscular
disorders provide systematic information about the different disease entities and
important suggestions for optimal preparation of affected patients prior to a planned
surgical intervention. Drs Grigore and Odonkor provide advice for the pre-operative
preparation of patients with cardiovascular comorbidities in their article addressing
the specific challenges in patients with ischemic heart disease, and Dr Schulman
and coauthors make recommendations for the care of patients with cardiac rhythm
disturbances in their article on considerations in patients with pacemakers or implant-
able cardioverter defibrillators.

The following articles are dedicated to the pre-operative specifics in patients with
vascular disease by Drs Manley and Reck, chronic pulmonary disease by Hong and
Galvagno, and chronic kidney disease by Drs Niemann and Kalamas. Systemic
diseases and their specific considerations for pre-operative preparation are summar-
ized in articles on patients with chronic endocrine disease by Dr Njoku, patients with
immunodeficiency by Dr Hannaman, and patients with disorders of thrombosis and
hemostasis by Drs Orfanakis and Deloughery. Specific suggestions for pre-operative
preparation of patients requiring nutritional support are provided in an article by
Dr Enomoto and coauthors, and for those with chronic pain by Drs Chen and
Salama-Hanna.

Our goal as editors of this issue was to provide a systematic overview of the key
topics relevant to clinicians charged with preparing patients with chronic diseases
for surgery or other interventions that require anesthesia.

Health care workers in all practice environments involved in pre-operative prepara-
tion of surgical patients will enjoy reading the different contributions. The information
supports specific decision-making, developing a comprehensive care plan and optimi-
ization of the patient’s medical conditions prior to surgery. It will also support proac-
tive communication between those preparing the patient and the procedural team. By
doing so, the result is improved patient care and outcomes for chronically ill patients
who require operative interventions.

Ansgar M. Brambrink, MD, PhD
Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University
Portland, OR 97239, USA

Peter Rock, MD, MBA, FCCM
Department of Anesthesiology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD 21201, USA

Jeffrey R. Kirsch, MD
Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR 97239, USA

E-mail addresses:
brambrin@ohsu.edu (A.M. Brambrink)
prock@anes.umm.edu (P. Rock)
kirschje@ohsu.edu (J.R. Kirsch)