

In this issue July 2015

Survey research: it's just a few questions, right?

Surveys are a valuable quality improvement and research tool. However, poorly designed surveys can waste time or even produce biased results leading to invalid recommendations. The scientific committees of SPANZA, APAGBI, and SPA are frequently asked to approve surveys before sending them out to members. The quality of the surveys is often suboptimal. Thus, the three presidents of these committees asked Alan Tait to write a review on how to design a survey. This is an excellent review. Any future surveyor would be very wise to read it and heed the advice. . .

Intraoperative changes in blood pressure associated with cerebral desaturation in infants

There is increasing concern that intraoperative hypotension may be a contributing factor to risk of poor neurological outcome after neonatal anesthesia. NIRS may give us a research tool to determine if this true and even a means to prevent it. In this study, Michelet *et al.* found that falls in systolic blood pressure of <20% from baseline were associated with a <10% chance of cerebral desaturation. An accompanying editorial by Skowno *et al.* provides some perspective on how we should interpret these data.

News from the pediatric anesthesia societies

SARNePI (Società Anestesia Rianimazione Neonatale e Pediatrica Italiana) was born in 1995 and has several aims:

- Bring together anesthesiologists and intensivists dedicated to the neonatal and pediatric field of the discipline
- Promote studies, research, practice, and qualified teaching
- Establish relationships with similar societies and with national and international institutions having the same aims.

We have a small elected executive and many study groups.

1. Pain management and palliative care: a network of expert specialists providing training, continuing education, consultation, and technical assistance to anesthesiologists interested in developing opportunities for pediatric palliative care and pain management.

2. Day surgery: a group to draw up clinical and organizational guidelines for a pediatric day surgery. To improve the value of the guidelines, a multidisciplinary confrontation with the Italian Society of Pediatric Surgery, and a consensus meeting between the two societies were carried out.

3. New drugs and neuroprotecting strategies in critically ill children: promotion of research on efficacy and safety of new drugs and approaches in critically ill children with the objective to activate the approval process for the authorization of off-label use, documenting therapeutic results in children.

4. Pediatric emergency care: highlights the role of emergency care by the implementation of the international guidelines related to the stepwise use of fluids, antibiotics, and eventually inotropes,

Revisiting a common measure of child postoperative recovery: development of the Post Hospitalization Behavior Questionnaire for Ambulatory Surgery (PHBQ-AS)

Surgery may have a significant psychological impact on children. The Vernon Postoperative Behavior Questionnaire has been around for half a century and has been the most commonly used tool to assess this impact. However, many have recognized that this questionnaire was far from perfect. At last, a highly qualified group (Brooke *et al.*) have had ago at improving it. Better late than never. . .

Gas induction for pyloromyotomy

Many practicing pediatric anesthesiologists question the feasibility or even the need for performing a classical rapid sequence induction for pyloromyotomy. In this article, Scrimgeour *et al.* describe their experience of few, if any, complications using gas induction. However, the accompanying editorial by Wang *et al.* point out that far larger series are required before safety can be assumed.

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within the first hour of admission. The purpose was to share this document with physicians occasionally involved in the treatment of pediatric patients. The goal was to provide both a paper and online documents with flowcharts and diagrams.

5. TIPnet: network of Italian pediatric intensive care units working on the database of 18 PICUs.

6. Preoperative assessment: the aim was to provide a framework reference for the preoperative evaluation of children undergoing elective surgery/diagnostic-therapeutic procedures. The final document was published on *Minerva Anestesiologica* 2014, Apr;80 (4):461–9.

Every year, SARNePI colleagues organize a Masters, attracting a good number of people.

Our first Congress was held in Naples in 1997 and this year, our 19th will be in Florence. In 2012, it was held in Stresa in conjunction with ESPA. Every year, we have several 'pediatric sessions' in adult congresses.

I take the opportunity for a warm invitation to join us in Florence, next November for our national meeting. For more information, our website is: <http://www.sarnepi.it/>.

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