

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY



SUBJECT: Preoperative Evaluation by an
Anesthesiologist

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PAGE 1
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REVIEW
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Introduction:

Preoperative anesthesia assessment or consultation may be required prior to an operative procedure to ensure optimal patient preparation. Patients may be referred to the anesthesia consult clinic by a physician or by a nurse following a pre-surgical screening assessment. Indications for a preoperative anesthesia consult include the presence of significant medical problems, the nature of the proposed diagnostic or therapeutic procedure, or a patient request for a visit with an anesthesiologist.

Policy:

The Queen's University Department of Anesthesiology recommends that patients with the following conditions be referred for a preoperative evaluation by an anesthesiologist in the Pre-Surgical Screening Unit:

1. **Request for consultation:**
 - 1.1. Patient requests a consultation to discuss anesthetic care
 - 1.2. Surgeon requests consultation for patient to discuss anesthetic technique or pain-management options
2. **Anesthesia considerations:**
 - 2.1. Personal history of anesthesia-related serious adverse event
 - 2.2. Personal or family history of malignant hyperthermia (not required if the patient has had a previous uncomplicated general anesthetic)
 - 2.3. Anticipated or past history of difficult intubation
3. **Surgical Procedures:**
 - 3.1. Major vascular, cardiac, or intrathoracic procedures
 - 3.2. Implantable cardiac defibrillator procedures
4. **Medical considerations:**
 - 4.1. General
 - 4.1.1. Poor functional capacity (unable to walk 1 block or climb one flight of stairs)
 - 4.1.2. Recent deterioration of chronic medical problem
 - 4.1.3. Unusual or complicated medical condition
 - 4.2. Cardiovascular
 - 4.2.1. Myocardial infarction or unstable angina within the last 6 months
 - 4.2.2. Structural heart disease (valvular, congenital, or transplant)
 - 4.2.3. Congestive heart failure within the last 6 months
 - 4.2.4. Implantable cardiac defibrillator in situ
 - 4.3. Respiratory
 - 4.3.1. Asthma or Obstructive lung disease requiring home oxygen or hospital admission within the past 6 months
 - 4.3.2. Untreated obstructive sleep apnea patients (including patients with symptoms who have not had a

sleep study)

4.3.3. Pulmonary hypertension

4.4. Central Nervous System

4.4.1. Neuromuscular disease (e.g., myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy)

4.4.2. Quadriplegia

4.5. Other

4.5.1. Morbid obesity (body mass index > 40)

4.5.2. Anemia

4.5.3. Bleeding disorders (e.g., hemophilia, von Willebrand's)

4.5.4. Dialysis-dependent renal dysfunction

4.5.5. Sickle Cell Disease