

OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIOLOGY - CORE

The first rotation in obstetric anesthesiology is designed as an introduction to caring for women in the peripartum period. It is divided into two-week segments. The first two-weeks are spent on the day shift under 1:1 attending coverage to ensure maximal learning opportunities. The next two weeks are spent on the night shift to broaden the resident's understanding of the system of coverage by the obstetric team.

Goals:

Patient Care:

- Understand the management of anesthetics for uncomplicated peripartum patients
- Demonstrates ability to recognize complicated patients and initiate care plans in consultation with faculty.
- Exhibits the technical skills to carry out care plans for the peripartum patient

Medical Knowledge:

- Understand the physiological changes of pregnancy and the anesthetic implications of these changes
- Understand basic placental/fetal physiology and the potential impact of anesthetics on the fetus.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

- Show investment in team work and collaboration with other care providers
- Demonstrate active engagement with patient and patient's family

Professionalism:

- Demonstrates responsibility and physical and mental attentiveness in a positive and constructive manner
- Demonstrates willingness to show consideration and appreciation for patients and co-workers
- Exhibits compassion, empathy and support in patient care and professional interactions
- Demonstrates truthful and ethical standards in professional interactions and conduct

Practice Based Learning and Improvement:

- Understands application of evidence based medicine as it applies to the peripartum patient
- Examines their individual patient experiences and demonstrates ability to assess and improve their practice from this process.

System Based Learning:

- Understands the needs and roles of social service and support services.
- Demonstrates a cost effective approach to patient care

Objectives:

Patient Care:

- Evaluate obstetric patients obtaining the appropriate information in an efficient manner

- Design and execute an anesthetic care plan for the management of the following (with minimal need for faculty modification):
 - A healthy patient for labor analgesia
 - A healthy patient for cesarean delivery
 - A healthy patient for assisted vaginal delivery
- Create a basic anesthesia plan with consultation of a faculty member for high risk patients (including multiple gestation, Preeclampsia, morbidly obese patients and diabetic patients)
- Demonstrate expertise in placing and administration of the following in a non urgent situation
 - Lumbar epidural placement for obstetric patients
 - Spinal anesthesia administration for obstetric patients
 - General Anesthesia with rapid sequence induction for obstetric patients
 - Describe the role and function of monitoring modalities
 - Recognizes and correctly interprets fetal heart rate monitoring including:
 - Variable Decelerations
 - Early Decelerations
 - Fetal Bradycardia
 - Fetal Tachycardia
 - Late Decelerations
- Develop and execute a care plan for the patient with a post- dural puncture headache

Medical Knowledge:

- Define the indications and contraindications of regional and general anesthesia for labor analgesia and operative delivery
- Identify the physiologic changes of pregnancy
- Explain the physiologic changes of pregnancy impact on anesthetic management.
- Describe the basics of fetal circulation, placental gas exchange and fetal/neonatal effects of maternally administered anesthetic drugs.
- Define the stages of labor, typical duration and potential effects of anesthetics on the progress of labor.
- Identify the nerve roots involved in the pain pathways for the first and second stages of labor, and for operative delivery.
- Recognize the physiological characteristics related to high risk patients (including multiple gestation, Preeclampsia, morbidly obese patients, peripartum hemorrhage, placenta previa, etc)
- Explain the etiology, risk factors, presentation and treatment of patients with post dural puncture headaches.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

- Explain and discuss anesthetic options with a parturient in a complete and reassuring manner, and obtain an informed consent.
- Uses interpreter services in an efficient manner.
- Recognizes importance of communication between all caregivers in the

effective management of the parturient.

Professionalism:

- Arrives for duty shifts in a punctual manner ready for patient care.
- Continuously demonstrates respect for patients and other care givers
- Respects patient/family role in anesthetic options for the birthing process
- Recognizes cultural differences in patient attitudes/concerns of peripartum care and demonstrates sensitivity to these issues in the care of the parturient.
- Transfers care of continuing patients to relieving physician in a complete and punctual manner

Practice Based Learning and Improvement:

- Explains evidence based medicine as it applies to the parturient including:
 - The effect of epidural analgesia on the progress of labor, maternal fever, and outcome of labor
 - The relative risk of regional and general anesthesia in the parturient.

System Based Learning:

- Identify one system issue that affects patient care and develops a potential solution to the problem.
- Describe the role of cost effective practice in selection of care plans on labor and delivery

Instructional Methods:

1. Clinical teaching at the bedside, including formative feedback.
2. Mini-lecture/seminars on topics designated on the card provided for the rotation. The resident should have the attending giving the lecture sign the card next to the topic of the lecture being provided. The card should be completed by the end of the rotation.

Assessment and Evaluation:

1. Residents will be evaluated on a daily basis using the departmental daily evaluation system.
2. Residents will also receive a summative narrative evaluation from the chief of the rotation.
3. Residents will be responsible for showing the list of lectures signed off to the rotation director.
4. Residents will complete an end-of-rotation evaluation using the electronic evaluation system.

References and Resources:

1. A collection of relevant articles is found at J:\ANES\Adult Anesthesia articles\Obstetric Anesthesia
2. A copy of Obstetric Anesthesia Principles and Practice, 3rd. Ed by David Chestnut is available in the OB anesthesia office.