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Patient Selection Issues for Outpatient Anesthesia: The Geriatric Patient

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Geriatric Patients Evaluation/Selection

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Aging

General decline in all organ function

Co-morbid diseases

Multiple drug use



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Assessment of the Geriatric Patient

Age

- Chronologic
- Physiologic
 - Increasing frailty
 - Decreased resilience
 - Ability to tolerate decr O2; BP changes, HR changes
 - Decreased reserve
 - Ability to respond/compensate for above changes



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Pre-Anesthetic Assessment

- Blood pressure
- Pulse
 - Rate
 - Rhythm
- Observe respiratory rate



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Initial Anesthesia Assessment: Who do I consider a candidate?

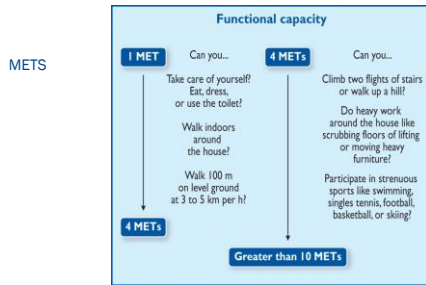
- Vital signs
- Medical history
 - Co-morbid diseases?
 - How have you been feeling lately?
 - How many medications do they take (>5=danger zone)
- Can they go up a flight of steps? (METS >4)
- Can they take deep breath and hold it for 5-10 seconds?
- Can they extend head/open mouth wide



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Assessment of reserve



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System Specific Geriatric Assessment



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Cardiac Issues



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Cardiac Issues of Aging

- Increased fibrosis, decreased elastin, decreased myocyte #
 - Vascular stiffness, systolic HTN,
- Fibrotic infiltration of the conduction system
 - Leads to a-fib
- Diastolic dysfunction
 - LV cannot return to resting length
 - Time in diastole is shortened due to increased afterload
- Cannot tolerate:
 - Hypervolemia
 - Hypovolemia



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Cardio/vascular issues

- at rest: Hypertension/bradycardia
- under anesth: Hypotension/labile blood pressure/labile heart rate
- Dysautonomia of aging
 - Sympathetic responses dominate
 - Loss of beta receptor activity
 - Lose exercise tolerance



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What is Atrial Fibrillation?

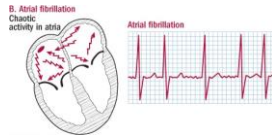
Disorganized atrial rhythm
Irregular ventricular response
The most common arrhythmia in geriatric patients



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Atrial Fibrillation



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What causes A Fib?

Remodeling of the left atrium with fibrosis and muscular atrophy
Inflammatory model: pro-inflammatory mediators and cytokines cause breakdown of normal cardiac musculature.



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Atrial Fibrillation

Paroxysmal

- Self terminating

Persistent

- Requires medical or electrical termination

Permanent

- Unsuccessful termination attempts



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Drugs used for AF

Rhythm control

Rate control

Anti-embolic



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Rhythm Control

Amiodarone

Verapamil

Sotalol



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Rate Control

Permanent AF

- Beta blockers
- Calcium channel blockers
- Digoxin

May cause bradycardia

- If persistent then pacing indicated to continue the meds



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Anticoagulation

Risk is similar in paroxysmal, persistent and permanent AF

Not related to duration of episodes and time in AF

Effective for primary and secondary CVA protection

- Reduction in stroke 60% vs. placebo



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Who Gets Anticoagulated? Warfarin Use

ASA 325 once a day

- < 60 years no heart disease
- <60 years heart disease no other risk factors
- 60-75 years no other risk factors
- If warfarin recommended but contraindicated or refused

Warfarin to INR of 2

- > 75 years age, especially women

Warfarin to INR 2-3

- >60 with diabetes or heart disease +/- ASA
- HF with EF <35%, thyrotoxicosis or hypertension

Warfarin INR 2.5 -3.5

- Rheumatic heart disease
- Mitral stenosis
- Prosthetic valve
- Previous embolism; current atrial thrombus



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Periodontal disease is the issue

Safety of Dental Extractions
During Uninterrupted Single or
Dual Antiplatelet Treatment

The American Journal of Cardiology (www.ajconline.org)



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Risks of Extractions on Anti-platelet therapy

Study group: overall bleeding 1.8%

- ASA 100mg 1.1%
- Clopidogrel 3.1%
- Clopidogrel + ASA 4.2%

15 cases of post operative bleeding

- 12 simple extractions
- 11 with periodontal disease

Dental extraction without stopping single or dual antiplatelet therapy: results of a retrospective cohort study. IJOMS 45(10): 1293, 2016



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Best Ways to Assess Cardiac Reserve

METS

Blood pressure

Stable rhythm

Cardiac/HTN medications <3



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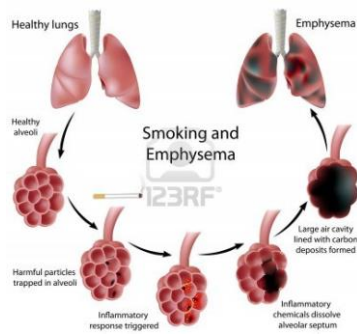
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Pulmonary Issues



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Severe Respiratory Compromise



Clubbing
Nail bed cyanosis
Severe PVD



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Pulmonary Issues

- Stiff neck
- Fibrosis of lung alveoli
- Decreased ability to expand lungs
- Abdominal obesity compromising FRC
- Decreased sensitivity to acid base/ CO_2 changes
- Increased response to medications.



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Hepatic Issues



Hepatitis
Cirrhosis



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Hepatic Issues



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Signs of Hepatic Failure

Fatigue
*Low platelets; petechiae
Nausea (one of first signs)
*Ascites or peripheral edema
Jaundice
*Bruising easily
Splenomegaly
Vague gastric pain
Diarrhea
Loss of appetite



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Hepatic Issues

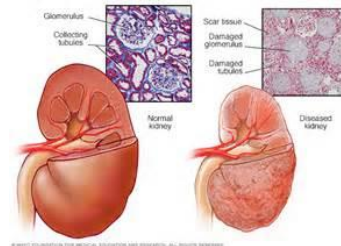
- Decreased hepatocytes/activity
- Increased duration of drug
- Decreased albumin production



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Renal Issues: natural aging process



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Renal Disease in the Geriatric Patient

CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE (CRF)

- RENAL INSUFFICIENCY -

- Headaches
- Edema
- ↓ Ability to Concentrate Urine
- GFR - progressively decreases from 90 to 30 ml/min
- Polyuria → Oliguria
- Mild Anemia
- ↑ BUN & Serum Creatinine
- ↑ BP
- Weakness & Fatigue



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Renal Issues

- Decreased GFR
 - Decreases clearance of drugs
 - Potentially prolonged action
- Decreased TBW
 - Increases profundity of drug effects
 - Increased duration of action (decrease in Vd)

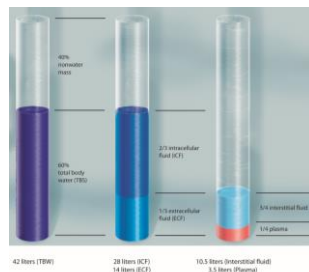


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Fluid Management in the Geriatric Patient

Preop fasting = hypovolemia
8 hour fast = 800 mL deficit



42 liters (TBW)

28 liters (ECF)

10.5 liters (Intracellular Fluid)

3.5 liters (Plasma)



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Drug Effects

- Slower time of onset
- More profound effect
 - Lower net drug amounts
 - Less plasma proteins/TBW
- Longer times for recovery



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Issues with Drug Effects and Elderly

- Pre-existing dementia
- Pre-existing Alzheimer's
- Post anesthetic delirium
- Post anesthetic cognitive dysfunction (POCD)



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CNS issues and the Elderly

- Loss of synapses and brain mass
- Reduction in neurotransmitter activity
 - Dopamine: decline in cognitive and motor performance
 - Serotonin: decline in synaptic responses
 - Decreases cholinergic activity: vulnerable to anti-cholinergics
 - Atropine
 - Meperidine
 - Diphenhydramine
 - Benzodiazepines



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Emergence Delirium

Affects 1.3% of all general anesthetics in the PACU

Range of responses

Can have delayed reaction



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Emergence Delirium:

Riker Agitation Scale		
7	Dangerous agitation	Pulling at ET tube, cath, fighting, punching
6	Very agitated	Does not calm, biting ET tube, phys restraints
5	Agitated	Attempt to sit up, calms with requests
4	Calm and cooperative	
3	Sedated	Difficult to arouse
2	Very sedated	Arouses to phys stimulation
1	Unarouseable	Minimal response



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Pathophysiology

Theories:

- Neurotransmitter decline during anesthesia, specifically acetylcholine
 - Elderly have pre-existing deficiency
 - More sensitive to anti-cholinergic drugs
 - Benzodiazepines have anti-cholinergic effects
- Increased serum cortisol during anesthesia/surgery
- Hypocapnia decreases cerebral blood flow
- Disturbance in sleep-wake cycle



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Alzheimer's Disease Drugs

Cholinesterase inhibitors:

- Aricept (donepezil)
- Exelon (rivastigmine)
- Razadyne (galantamine)

Therefore use drugs that are not anticholinergic



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Factors Associated with Post Anesthesia Delirium

Preoperative anxiety
Premedication with benzodiazepines
Longer surgical procedures
Use of inhalational agents vs. Propofol
Post operative pain
Reduced instance in patients with long term antidepressant use



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Emergence Delirium

Central anticholinergic syndrome

- Delirium, agitation, dry mouth, tremors
- Primarily associated with atropine
- Scopolamine
- Anti-drugs
 - Antihistamines
 - Antidepressants
 - Antipsychotics
 - Antiparkinson



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Central Anticholinergic Syndrome

Toxidrome

- "Crazy as a loon"
- Red as a beet
- Hot as a hare
- Dry as a bone
- The bowel and bladder lose their tone
- The heart runs alone"



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Treatment

Physostigmine

- Anticholinesterase inhibitor
- "Antilerium"
- May have recurrence of effect



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Dissociative Coma

Continued stupor, unresponsiveness

Associated with ketamine

Benzodiazepines in the elderly

- 10-15% of cases
- Develop interval delirium: lucid interval with effect 1-3 days later
- Greater effect during darkness



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Why are Elderly More Suseptible?

Decreased ability to clear drugs (age related decline of renal and hepatic function)

Often receiving multiple drugs

- Age >70 average rx # is 5.4

Central imbalance of neurotransmitters due to age related changes

- Increased sensitivity to drug effects



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Drugs Associated with Cognitive Impairment

Benzodiazepines
Opiates
Tricyclic antidepressants
Anticonvulsants



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Drug Selection with Elderly/Dementia

Drug to avoid

Narcotic Analgesics

- Meperidine

Antiemetics

- Cyclizine
- Meclizine (Antivert)
- Promethazine (Phenegan)
- Trimethobenzamide (Tigan)

Alternative

Mild pain: NSAID

Moderate/severe:

- Morphine
- Hydrocodone/oxycodone

Ondansetron

Dolasetron

(Metoclopramide (Reglan) &
Prochlorperazine (Compazine)
have less AC effect)



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Disinhibition Reactions

Also associated with BNZ

Paradoxical response

- Acute anxiety
- Hyperactivity
- Hostility
- Rage

Cross response with other GABA_A receptor agonists

- Alcohol



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Who is at Risk?

Genetic factors

- Identical twins

Underlying personality disorder

- History of aggression
- Poor impulse control
- May have lower serotonin 5HT activity
 - BNZ further reduce 5HT neurotransmission

Very young/very old

High dose/high potency

Fluctuating doses



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management

Patient safety

Staff safety

Reversal (Do not give more!)

- Flumazenil
- Physostigmine

Alternative agents

- Ketamine
- Narcotics

Patient education



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POCD (decline/dysfunction) (no DSM-V code)

Undefined /vague / subtle / transient

- Syndrome...measured (testing needed) drop in cognitive performance (memory, attention) temporally associated with surgery
- "Failure of cognitive resilience"

Gradual onset, undetermined duration

Difficult to Dx, no Tx



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POCD

Predictors

- Advanced age
- Low educational level
- Frailty, prior CVA
- Co-morbidity, polypharmacy (>5 drugs)

Provokers

- Depth / duration of anesthesia
- Inflammation?
- Smoking
- Drugs ? ... Beers criteria
 - "association NOT causation"



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POCD

CLINICAL INVESTIGATIONS

American Geriatrics Society 2015 Updated Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults

By the American Geriatrics Society 2015 Beers Criteria Update Expert Panel

Recommend against short/intermediate BZ (triazolam, lorazepam)

But not against long acting: e.g. Diazepam (OK for "periprocedural sedation")

Midazolam not mentioned



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POCD

Avoid / potentially inappropriate

- Non BZ BZ receptor agonists
 - Xaleplon, zolpidem
- BZ – but "midazolam" not on list
- Anti-cholinergics – 1st gen anti-histamines, atropine
- Meperidine, pentazocine



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POCD: PIM

Table 7. Commonly Used Medications Used in the Perioperative Setting That May Induce Postoperative Delirium¹⁰

Drug class or drug	Examples
Drugs with anticholinergic properties	Tricyclic antidepressants: amitriptyline, doxepin, imipramine Antihistamines: cyproheptadine, diphenhydramine, hydroxyzine Antimuscarinics: oxybutyrin, scopolamine Antispasmodics: hyoscyamine, scopolamine First-generation antipsychotics: chlorpromazine, thioridazine H ₂ -receptor antagonists: cimetidine, ranitidine Skeletal muscle relaxants: cyclobenzaprine, tizanidine Antiemetics: promethazine Olanzapine Paroxetine
Corticosteroids	Methylprednisolone Prednisone
Meperidine	Meperidine
Sedative hypnotics	Benzodiazepines: alprazolam, diazepam, lorazepam, midazolam Sedative-hypnotics: zolpidem, zaleplon
Polypharmacy	Starting ≥5 new medications increases risk of delirium.



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PIM per AGS

Non benzodiazepine receptor agonists ("Z drugs") (zolpidem Ambien)*

Sliding scale insulin regimens

Proton pump inhibitors (Protonix) for > 8 weeks

Opioids in history of patients with falls

*Benzodiazepine-receptor agonists have adverse events similar to those of benzodiazepines in older adults (e.g., delirium, falls, fractures); increased emergency department visits and hospitalizations; motor vehicle crashes; minimal improvement in sleep latency and duration



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Sliding scale insulin PIM per AGS Beers criteria

Higher risk of hypoglycemia without improvement in hyperglycemia management regardless of care setting;

refers to sole use of short- or rapid-acting insulins to manage or avoid hyperglycemia in absence of basal or long-acting insulin; does not apply to titration of basal insulin or use of additional short- or rapid acting insulin in conjunction with scheduled insulin (i.e., correction insulin)



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NSAID's per AGS Beers Criteria

Increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding or peptic ulcer disease in high-risk groups, including those aged >75 or taking oral or parenteral corticosteroids, anticoagulants, or antiplatelet agents;

use of proton-pump inhibitor or misoprostol reduces but does not eliminate risk. Upper gastrointestinal ulcers, gross bleeding, or perforation caused by NSAIDs occur in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3–6 months and in ~2–4% of patients treated for 1 year; these trends continue with longer duration of use

Indomethacin and Ketoralac per AGS

indomethacin has the most adverse effects.

Avoid use; Evidence level = Strong

Ketoralac, includes parenteral Increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding,

peptic ulcer disease, and acute kidney injury in older adults



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ketamine

Possibly neuroprotective

- Ensure cerebral circulation
- Anti-inflammatory

Tx for depression ?

propofol

"milk of amnesia"

Rapid, clear-headed, euphoric recovery

Anti-emetic

CV – hypotension without tachycardia

- Careful with old, hypovolemia, ↓cardiac reserve

Resp – dose-dependent vent. depression

Intralipid Injection pain...

Contamination...ETDA, etc.



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propofol

Dose – dependent upper airway collapse

- Should this be monitored ???

Rare, neuroexcitatory reaction

- Tonic-clonic
- Dystonic

propofol

Patients with soy or egg allergy can receive propofol without any special precautions.

- In spite of product labelling

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, 2011



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benzodiazepines

Anxiolysis, Sedation, Amnesia,, MR

- Activity:degree of receptor binding

No analgesia – need narcotic

Little CV/pulm effects

- Dose dependent !
- Synergy – all bets off



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benzodiazepines

Paradoxical disinhibition

Diazepam

- Propylene glycol phlebitis
- Active metabolites = hangover

Midazolam

- CYP inhibitors may delay offset
- Active metabolite ?



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benzodiazepines

Anxiolysis, Sedation, Amnesia,, MR

- Activity:degree of receptor binding

No analgesia – need narcotic

Little CV/pulm effects

- Dose dependent !
- Receptor dependent!
 - Unexpected apnea



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Conclusions: Anesthetic Medications

***Table 13.2** Anesthetic modifications for the geriatric population.

REDUCE DOSAGES and administer slowly

↓ blood volume and ↓ muscle mass → ↑ initial drug concentration

↓ protein binding → ↑ free drug available for effect

↓ muscle mass, ↑ fat → prolonged effect as drug is released from fat stores

*Schreiber A, Tan P: Anesthetic considerations for geriatric patients,



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INCREASE INTERVAL BETWEEN DOSES

Limit total doses

Consider changes in receptor sensitivity, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

↓ hepatic and renal function → ↓ ability to metabolize and excrete drugs



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PRUDENT AGENT SELECTION

Short half life

Minimal side effects

Few active metabolites



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**Thanks for your
participation!**

Please feel free to type in any questions



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