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Perioperative Safety in High-Complexity Maternal and Pediatric Anesthesia: Evidence-Based Strategies for Patient Safety

Perioperative Safety in High-Complexity Maternal-Child Anesthesia: Evidence-Based Strategies for Patient Safety

Perioperative safety in highly complex maternal and child anesthesia: evidence-based strategies for patient safety

Dr. Janaína Leila Batista de Oliveira

TEA/SBA Specialist Title in Anesthesiology from the Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology Specialist in Medical Residency Preceptorship (Oswaldo Cruz) Specialist in Neurosciences (Unyleya) Specialist in Occupational Medicine (UnB) | Medical Residency in Anesthesiology (MEC/SBA CET HBDF) | Graduated in Medicine (UFRN) Brasília Maternal and Child Hospital (HMIB) | Brasília, Federal District, Brazil

Corresponding author:

Dr. Janaína Leila Batista de Oliveira, Hospital Materno Infantil de Brasília (HMIB), Brasília, DF, Brazil jjleilamd@gmail.com | ORCID: 0009-0004-5675-2401 Brazilian Journal of Anesthesiology, Revista Brasileira de Anestesiologia

Summary

Introduction: Maternal and pediatric anesthesiology and highly complex perioperative medicine require the continuous integration of updated scientific evidence, refined technical skills, and institutional structures capable of ensuring the safety of vulnerable populations. High-risk pregnant women, neonates, infants, and children undergoing cancer treatment constitute groups in which the clinical margin is narrow and the consequences of incorrect decisions can be irreversible.

Objective: To critically review contemporary scientific evidence related to pediatric, neonatal, and obstetric anesthesia and highly complex perioperative medicine, with an emphasis on patient safety, multimodal analgesia, individualized monitoring, perioperative pharmacogenomics, competency-based training, and emerging technological perspectives.

Methods: Narrative literature review with non-systematic search in databases.

PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Cochrane Library, and SciELO were used to prioritize indexed articles, reviews, consensus statements, clinical guidelines, and relevant original studies published preferably within the last 20 years, in addition to essential classic references, in English and Portuguese. Selection considered clinical relevance, level of evidence, and importance for maternal and infant anesthesia and perioperative safety. As this is a narrative review, no formal PRISMA protocol or meta-analysis was performed.

Summary of findings: The reviewed literature supports the adoption of multimodal analgesia associated with regional blocks, individualized hemodynamic monitoring, protective ventilation, and ERAS protocols as strategies associated with improved quality of care and potential reduction of perioperative complications. In obstetric anesthesia, phenylephrine remains the reference vasopressor, with norepinephrine established as a relevant alternative due to better preservation of maternal cardiac output. Perioperative management of patients exposed to bleomycin should be individualized, guided by the judicious use of the lowest FiO2 compatible with normoxemia and by multiple additional risk factors. Perioperative pharmacogenomics has clinical applications already identified in selected contexts, but is not yet a universal screening practice. Competency-based medical training, with qualified preceptorship and realistic simulation, is recognized as a pillar of safety in anesthesiology services.

Conclusion: Excellence in highly complex maternal and infant anesthesia requires...

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integration between scientific rigor, technical precision, and solid training and development structures. Clinical governance. Emerging technological innovations have real transformative potential, provided they are incorporated critically and based on evidence.
Keywords: Pediatric Anesthesiology; Obstetric Anesthesia; Perioperative Medicine; Patient Safety; Multimodal Analgesia; Bleomycin; Pharmacogenomics; Medical Preceptorship; ERAS.

Abstract

Introduction: Maternal-child anesthesiology and high-complexity perioperative medicine demand the continuous integration of up-to-date scientific evidence, refined technical skills, and institutional frameworks that sustain safety for vulnerable populations. High-risk pregnant women, neonates, infants, and children undergoing oncological treatment represent groups in which clinical margins are narrow, and the consequences of poor decisions may be irreversible.
Objective: To critically review contemporary scientific evidence related to pediatric, neonatal, and obstetric anesthesia and high-complexity perioperative medicine, with emphasis on patient safety, multimodal analgesia, individualized monitoring, perioperative pharmacogenomics, competency-based medical education, and emerging technological perspectives.
Methods: Narrative review of the literature, with non-systematic searches in PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Cochrane Library, and SciELO. Indexed articles, reviews, guidelines, consensus statements, and relevant original studies, published preferentially within the last 20 years, were prioritized, including essential classical references, in English and Portuguese. Selection was guided by clinical relevance, level of evidence, and applicability to maternal-child anesthesia and perioperative safety. No formal PRISMA protocol or meta-analysis was conducted.

Findings: The reviewed literature supports multimodal analgesia combined with regional blocks, individualized hemodynamic monitoring, protective ventilation, and ERAS protocols as strategies associated with improved care quality and a potential reduction in perioperative complications. In obstetric anesthesia, phenylephrine remains the reference vasopressor, with norepinephrine established as a relevant alternative for its superior preservation of maternal cardiac output. Perioperative management of bleomycin-exposed patients should be individualized, guided by the judicious use of the lowest FiO2 compatible with normoxemia, alongside consideration of additional risk factors. Perioperative pharmacogenomics has clinically identified applications in selected contexts, but does not yet constitute universal screening practice. Competency-based medical education, coupled with qualified preceptorship and realistic simulation, is recognized as a pillar of patient safety in anesthesiology services.
Conclusion: Excellence in high-complexity maternal-child anesthesia requires integration of scientific rigor, technical precision, and robust frameworks for medical education and clinical governance. Emerging technological innovations hold genuine transformative potential, provided they are incorporated critically and in an evidence-based manner.
Keywords: Pediatric Anesthesiology; Obstetric Anesthesia; Perioperative Medicine; Patient Safety; Multimodal Analgesia; Bleomycin; Pharmacogenomics: Medical Preceptorship; AGES.

1. Introduction

Those who have worked in maternal and pediatric anesthesiology long enough recognize that the field

It has changed structurally in the last two decades. The specialty has broadened its scope to

Beyond the operating room, assuming responsibility for the patient's homeostasis throughout

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throughout the entire perioperative window, from the pre-anesthetic evaluation, which has ceased to be a mere formality for becoming a crucial step in risk stratification, with targeted postoperative follow-up. by functional outcomes.1

In obstetric patients, this complexity has a particular nature. Pregnancy alters the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of virtually all available drugs, modifies significantly improves cardiovascular physiology and reduces decision-making time in Emergency situations. Neuroaxial anesthesia has become established as the preferred technique for this. Most obstetric procedures, but its safe application in obese patients. Severe illness, pre-eclampsia, or coagulopathy demands more than just technical skill; it requires... Structured protocols and trained teams to anticipate incidents.2

In the pediatric setting, the variability is even greater. A premature newborn undergoing emergency laparotomy and a six-year-old child undergoing anesthetic induction for resection of Nephroblastoma presents radically different physiological, pharmacological, and technical challenges. distinct, although they share the same operating room. Organic immaturity, the Cardiorespiratory transitions during the neonatal period, cumulative toxicities of treatments Prior antineoplastic treatment and the narrow safety volumes in infants necessitate a Individualized planning that goes far beyond adjusting the dose per kilogram.3

Scientific literature demonstrates, with increasing consistency, that a large part of the complications Perioperative complications in these populations do not stem from isolated technical failures, but from deficiencies. systemic, from missing or outdated protocols, from team communication failures, from Training gaps and lack of an institutional safety culture. Studies on the burden Global disease statistics reinforce the scale of the problem: neonatal conditions, non-neonatal diseases Transmissible diseases and healthcare-associated complications continue to contribute significantly. significant for the loss of disability-adjusted life years on a global scale, which justifies the ongoing investment in safer perioperative strategies for vulnerable populations.5

This narrative review brings together contemporary evidence on pediatric oncology anesthesia. management of bleomycin toxicity, high-risk obstetric anesthesia, perioperative medicine, Advanced monitoring, pharmacogenomics, and competency-based training. The question The guiding principle is straightforward: what evidence-based strategies can improve safety and security? What are the perioperative outcomes in vulnerable maternal and infant populations?

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2. Methods

A narrative literature review was conducted, with a non-systematic search of the databases.
PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Cochrane Library, and SciELO. The search strategies used
The following descriptors, combined with Boolean operators (AND, OR): pediatric
anesthesia, neonatal anesthesia, obstetric anesthesia, perioperative medicine, patient safety,
multimodal analgesia, regional pediatric anesthesia, ERAS obstetrics, goal-directed
hemodynamic therapy, protective mechanical ventilation, bispectral index, vasopressors
cesarean, perioperative bleomycin, pharmacogenomics anesthesia, competency-based
education, simulation anesthesia, medical preceptorship.
Publications from the last 20 years were considered, preferably, including
Classic references are used when indispensable to the clinical context being addressed. Articles are in English and
Studies in Portuguese were eligible. Randomized clinical trials and reviews were prioritized.
systematics, meta-analyses, observational studies of methodological relevance, guidelines of
international scientific societies (ASA, SOAP, ESAIC, ERAS Society, ACGME,
CanMEDS, CPIC) and national regulatory documents (CNRM/MEC, SBA, CFM).
Documents from the World Health Organization have been included where relevant.
The selection of references was guided by clinical relevance and applicability to anesthesia.
pediatric, obstetric and perioperative medicine, due to its methodological quality and relevance to the
patient safety. Because this is a narrative review without primary data collection, it does not
The formal PRISMA protocol, the systematic risk of bias assessment, or the... were performed.
Meta-analysis; the limitations were acknowledged and discussed in the specific section.

3. High-Complexity Pediatric and Oncological Anesthesia

Few scenarios test the integration of the pediatric anesthesiologist's knowledge with
with the same intensity as pediatric oncological surgery. The patient who arrives in the operating room...
Surgery is not just about a child with a tumor; it is often about a child who already...
underwent cycles of chemotherapy, with potentially compromised cardiac function due to
Anthracyclines, lungs sensitized by cytotoxic agents, depressed bone marrow, and reserve.
Reduced physiological function. Perioperative planning needs to integrate all these layers.
simultaneously.

The cardiotoxicity of anthracyclines, especially doxorubicin and epirubicin, is dose-dependent.

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dependent and cumulative, and may manifest as subclinical systolic dysfunction even
In the absence of obvious symptoms. Preoperative echocardiographic evaluation, with
Measuring ventricular ejection fraction is an indispensable part of the preparation protocol in this context.
context, and not an optional exam.7

Mediastinal or cervical tumor masses pose a specific airway challenge that
requires rigorous advance preparation, videolaryngoscope, flexible bronchoscope, devices
supraglottic rescue ventilators and, in extreme cases, the ability to convert to life-sustaining ventilators.
Extracorporeal shock waves, which must be available before any induction."

Myelosuppression imposes limitations on regional anesthesia that must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
Platelet counts below certain thresholds contraindicate or preclude the performance of
Neuroaxial blocks; severe neutropenia increases the risk of infection with any approach.
invasive. The decision must be documented, based on up-to-date laboratory data and
recorded in the medical record. 13

When hematological conditions permit, the combination of general anesthesia and nerve blocks
Regional management is the most robust strategy for perioperative pain control in oncology.
pediatric. 14, 15 Reducing the consumption of systemic opioids, a strategy known as
Opioid-sparing anesthesia has a direct impact on recovery, minimizing depression.
Respiratory distress, nausea, paralytic ileus, and prolonged sedation. 16 This approach should not be
confused with completely opioid-free anesthesia (OFA), which
It may be considered in selected patients and procedures, but there is a lack of evidence to support it.
Universal application. Best practice supports individualization according to the clinical profile and the
risk of postoperative pain. 16, 17 Preventive analgesia, instituted before the establishment
Central awareness-raising rationally complements these strategies.

The prior interdisciplinary discussion, integrating anesthesiology, pediatric oncology, surgery and
Intensive care is a requirement for safe planning in any service that performs...
High-complexity pediatric oncological surgery.

3.1 Bleomycin Pulmonary Toxicity and Perioperative Ventilatory Management

Pulmonary toxicity from bleomycin warrants specific perioperative consideration and
individualized. The central mechanism involves the formation of a bleomycin-iron complex-
Oxygen is capable of generating free radicals that cleave cellular DNA; the lung is particularly susceptible.
vulnerable due to a lack of the enzyme bleomycin hydrolase, responsible for inactivating the

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drug. Hyperoxia potentiates this damage, and there are reports of severe acute respiratory failure.
after exposure to high fractions of inspired oxygen in the perioperative period of patients
Patients previously treated with bleomycin have been described in the literature since the late 1990s.
1970.8

The recommended course of action is the judicious use of the lowest FiO2 compatible with normoxemia, the
which is conceptually distinct from absolute oxygen restriction, which can also
compromising patient safety through hypoxia. However, the literature is heterogeneous and the
Risk should be understood as multifactorial; larger retrospective series suggest otherwise.
Preoperative pulmonary function (FVC, DLCO), cumulative dose of bleomycin, interval
since the last administration, smoking, renal insufficiency (which reduces clearance of
drug), intraoperative fluid balance, transfusion volume, and procedure duration
exert an influence at least comparable to that of FiO2 alone on post-pulmonary morbidity.
operative., 1st Oxygen restriction as a sole measure does not replace an approach
Integrated perioperative care based on the individual risk stratification of each patient. 11
Radiotherapy-induced lung injury shares pathophysiological pathways with toxicity.
by bleomycin, such as oxidative damage, inflammatory response, and pulmonary fibrosis, and may worsen
the risk in patients who received both therapeutic modalities. 12 This overlap
This reinforces the need for careful preoperative assessment of the lung parenchyma.
including spirometry and DLCO when clinically indicated.

4. Obstetric and Neonatal Anesthesia and Vulnerable Populations

Working in a high-volume maternal and child hospital means dealing with emergencies.
unpredictable, often with incomplete clinical information and under time pressure.
The parturient with catastrophic hemorrhage due to placental accreta, the premature neonate with
Esophageal atresia, the pregnant woman with severe pre-eclampsia on the verge of seizure: these
These situations require institutional protocols that function smoothly and teams.
Multidisciplinary teams prepared for coordinated decision-making.
Neuroaxial anesthesia has become established as the preferred approach in modern obstetrics.
Surveys on the workforce in obstetric anesthesia, conducted over three
decades have documented the significant growth in the availability of neuroaxial analgesia and
coverage by professionals trained in obstetrics. 18 This consolidation is based on
solid evidence, such as lower maternal morbidity and mortality compared to general anesthesia,

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better pain control during labor, active maternal participation in childbirth, and lower risk.
fetal exposure to systemic drugs.2 In patients with severe hypertensive disorders,
morbid obesity or coagulopathy, its safe execution requires careful evaluation of
Technical conditions, continuous monitoring, and preparedness for unforeseen events.
Maternal hypotension after spinal anesthesia for cesarean section is a prevalent complication and, in
Much of it is preventable. For decades, ephedrine was the standard vasopressor, until studies...
Comparative studies have shown that it was associated with more severe fetal acidosis than...
Phenylephrine.19 Phenylephrine became the reference agent. More recently, the
Norepinephrine has emerged as a relevant alternative due to its mechanism of action.
predominantly alpha-adrenergic, combined with a low-magnitude beta effect, which
It better preserves maternal cardiac output than phenylephrine, a clinically advantageous factor.
relevant in parturients with compromised cardiac function. 20 The choice between these agents
It should not be universal; it should be individualized based on the hemodynamic profile and the
clinical conditions of each patient.
The management of placental accreta represents the most complex scenario in obstetrics.
contemporary. Massive volume losses, disseminated intravascular coagulation, need for
Massive transfusion and prolonged hemodynamic instability can occur simultaneously.
The anesthesiologist should lead the resuscitation with transfusion protocols based on...
defined proportions of blood components, including tranexamic acid early on, such as
supported by data from the WOMAN21 study, and, where available, consider recovery.
Intraoperative autologous blood transfusion. Preservation of reproductive capacity, when
If technically feasible, it should be integrated into the planning from the outset.
In the neonatal segment, perioperative hypothermia represents a real and frequent risk.
When underestimated, it worsens coagulopathy, promotes metabolic acidosis, and prolongs the effect of
virtually all anesthetic drugs.22 Active heating systems, solutions
Heated infusions and control of the room's ambient temperature are measures that need to be taken.
to be incorporated into the routine. Volume management, in turn, requires precision in an order.
qualitatively different from that of adults; the margins of error in calculation are much smaller and
The consequences could be serious.
The implementation of ERAS protocols in obstetrics and pediatrics has brought about concrete changes.
The dynamics of care in high-volume centers. Abbreviated preoperative fasting, with
administration of beverages containing maltodextrin, a rapidly absorbed carbohydrate and
Adequate gastric emptying up to two hours before induction reduces insulin resistance.

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perioperative and improves the patient's baseline metabolic state. 23 Combined with analgesia multimodal, early mobilization, and rational restriction of opioids—this model has demonstrated consistent reductions in length of hospital stay and incidence of complications. postoperative. 24

5. Perioperative Medicine, ERAS and Patient Safety

The neuroendocrine response to surgical trauma — activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis — adrenal glands, cortisol and catecholamine release, pro-inflammatory and hypercoagulable state — no It is a phenomenon independent of anesthetic conduct; it is something over which the anesthesiologist has control. real influence.25 Multimodal analgesia strategies that block nociceptive conduction before it reaches the central nervous system, they attenuate the magnitude of that response, reducing the substrate for cardiovascular, infectious, and cognitive complications in the postoperative period. Adjuvant drugs play a significant role in this analgesic architecture.
Dexmedetomidine, as an alpha-2 adrenergic agonist, combines sedative properties, analgesic and sympatholytic agents with a favorable impact on hemodynamic stability.
Intraoperative administration: Ketamine, in subanesthetic doses, and magnesium sulfate, by infusion. continuous, they act as NMDA receptor antagonists, modulating central sensitization and reducing postoperative hyperalgesia. The judicious use of these agents, always with attention. Considering the specific adverse effects in each population, it is part of the anesthesia repertoire. modern perioperative period.
The WHO Surgical Checklist deserves more than a routine mention. The study by Haynes and colleagues, published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2009, demonstrated a reduction in surgical complications and mortality in hospitals in countries with different levels of development. 27 The central point is not just the effectiveness of the list itself; It is the recognition that most adverse events in surgery do not result from not only individual incompetence, but also systemic failures in communication and verification. The list creates The conditions necessary for clinical judgment to operate with accurate information.

6. Multimodal Analgesia and Opioid-Sparing Strategies

Multimodal analgesia is based on the combination of agents with different mechanisms of action. complementary measures, aiming to reduce the dose of each component, expand pain coverage and

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to minimize adverse effects, especially those related to opioid use. In
In pediatric and obstetric populations, this approach is particularly relevant, given that
Vulnerability to sedative effects, respiratory depression, and gastrointestinal dysmotility.
The opioid-sparing strategy, which involves reducing opioid consumption without complete elimination, is...
distinct from completely opioid-free anesthesia (OFA). The literature
This shows that OFA can be an option in specific scenarios and for patients.
selected, but there is not enough evidence to support it as an approach.
universal.16 The most prudent recommendation is individualization: assess the patient's profile,
the type and extent of the procedure, the risk of postoperative pain, and contraindications.
specific to each adjuvant.
When gabapentinoids are considered components of multimodal analgesia, their
Its use should be judicious. Evidence regarding its role in the perioperative period is...
heterogeneous, and their adverse effects — sedation, dizziness and, in combination with opioids, risk
Respiratory depression—are clinically relevant, especially in elderly patients.
pediatric patients or those with pre-existing respiratory impairment. 17

7. Monitoring, Anesthetic Depth, and Hemodynamic Management

Monitoring the depth of anesthesia by continuous EEG processing, being the
The bispectral index (BIS), the most studied, has been incorporated into clinical practice with the expectation of
eliminate intraoperative awakening and optimize the use of hypnotics.28 In contexts of
high risk, there is evidence that BIS contributes to reducing arousal.29 However, the
The ENGAGES trial, published in JAMA in 2019, did not demonstrate a reduction in post-operative delirium.
operative with the routine use of guided electroencephalographic monitoring in adults
undergoing major surgery. 30 BIS is one of the tools available for this
its purpose, and its application must be contextualized, integrated into the clinical picture, and in response to
Surgical stimulus and other parameters are monitored simultaneously.
Volume management guided by hemodynamic goals represents a concrete evolution in
perioperative medicine. 31 Dynamic indices of fluid responsiveness, such as variation
Stroke volume (SVV) and pulse pressure measurements are valid tools in certain conditions.
specific ventilation requirements. However, its accuracy is substantially reduced in patients with
Spontaneous breathing, in the presence of arrhythmias, during ventilation with low tidal volumes,
in open-chest situations and in contexts of low pulmonary compliance or hypertension.

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pulmonary. 32 In pediatrics, these limitations are even more pronounced. The interpretation must
Always integrate dynamic parameters with clinical perfusion, diuresis, lactate, temperature,
Blood gas analysis, invasive blood pressure monitoring in selected cases, and functional echocardiography at the point of use.
from the bed, when available.
Protective mechanical ventilation, tidal volumes calculated from predicted body weight,
Individualized PEEP and selective alveolar recruitment maneuvers demonstrated a reduction.
expressive of postoperative pulmonary complications in adults. 33 Extrapolation to
Caution is needed when studying pediatric and neonatal populations. Large randomized studies are...
These resources are scarce in this group, and ventilatory targets need to be adjusted to pulmonary physiology.
specific to each age group, considering compliance, functional residual capacity and
Pressure tolerance. 34

8. Pharmacogenomics and Precision Perioperative Medicine

Perioperative pharmacogenomics is a growing field of clinical application.
with examples already identified of practical relevance, and not an abstract perspective.
Polymorphisms of CYP2D6 directly influence the biotransformation of opioids such as
Codeine and tramadol. Ultra-rapid metabolizers are at risk of toxicity due to...
Excessive conversion to morphine, while slow metabolizers may experience analgesia.
Inadequate with conventional doses. This data is supported by the CPIC guidelines, which
include specific therapeutic recommendations. 52 pathogenic variants of the RYR1 genes and
CACNA1s predispose to malignant hyperthermia, a potentially fatal perioperative emergency.
associated with halogenated volatile agents and succinylcholine, for which there are also
CPIC guidelines.51 Other gene-drug pairs with perioperative application include
CYP2D6/ondansetron and CYP2C9/nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. 51
What perioperative pharmacogenomics offers is individualized pharmacological information.
which can guide drug and dosage choices in higher-risk patients. This does not eliminate or replace clinical
judgment; it merely complements it. It is important, however, to distinguish the
that which is already clinically available versus that which is still under development. Screening
Universal preoperative genetic testing is neither a reality nor standard practice in most systems.
health, and its implementation faces barriers related to cost, logistics, and interpretation of
results.51 The judicious incorporation of these tools, as the evidence becomes
consolidates, represents one of the most promising frontiers of perioperative medicine of

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precision.

9. Preceptorship, Simulation and Competency-Based Training

Medical preceptorship is, above all, an act of responsibility. Who
supervises an anesthesiology resident during initial neonatal intubations, in the first
neuroaxial blocks in high-risk pregnant women, in the first inductions in children with
congenital heart disease, is forming the clinical judgment of another doctor, a judgment that,
Whether well or poorly constructed, it will impact the safety of hundreds of patients over decades.
The competency-based training model, consolidated in the curricular frameworks of
ACGME Milestones 35 and the CanMEDS framework 36 represent a break with the culture
to measure training by exposure time and the number of procedures performed. The
What matters is whether the resident is able to perform a procedure safely, to recognize
their own limits and communicate this to the team without embarrassment. In Brazil, the Resolution
CNRM No. 2/2020 establishes the national guidelines for medical residency programs.
including the requirement for continuous formative assessment and progressive supervision, whose effectiveness
Compliance depends on the quality and preparedness of the preceptors.37
Workplace assessment tools, such as DOPS (Direct Observation of Personnel).
Procedural Skills), Mini-CEX (Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise) and reflective portfolios,
They made the evaluation process less dependent on subjective impressions. 38 The concept of
Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs), developed by ten Cate, 39 formalizes this
Logic: the autonomy granted to the resident must be proportional to the calibrated trust in
demonstrated competence for that specific activity, protecting the patient while the
Professional development occurs.
High-fidelity realistic simulation is an indispensable complement, not a substitute, for...
Supervised clinical training. 40 Enables the resident to manage rare crises in various scenarios.
reproducible and safe, demonstrating concrete improvement in technical performance, in
communication and adherence to security protocols. 41 What the simulation does not reproduce
The training depends entirely on the emotional burden and the actual responsibility of the clinical situation.
In simulations, supervised exposure should precede, not replace, real-world exposure.

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10. Multidisciplinary Models, Clinical Leadership, and Medical Performance

High-quality surgical outcomes emerge from teams that communicate well and prepare in a comprehensive manner. They work together and anticipate problems before they occur. 42 care models multidisciplinary teams, integrating anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists and Intensive care physicians, working together on shared perioperative protocols, demonstrated... Positive impact on reducing complications and improving care efficiency. This is not about Interpersonal harmony; it's about system architecture. Teams with well-defined workflows and Clear responsibilities lead to fewer mistakes and faster recovery.

Adapting tools developed in high-reliability industries, such as lists of verification, pre-procedure briefing meetings and structured communication protocols, It was initially met with resistance from doctors, who saw these instruments as a Inadequate simplification of clinical complexity. 45 The data, over time, were convincing. 27 These instruments do not replace clinical reasoning, but create the conditions that allow it to operate with less interference resulting from communication failures.

Mentoring, distinct from direct technical mentoring, serves a complementary function in The specialist's development involves working on their career path, professional identity, leadership, and... decision-making in career contexts.44 For anesthesiologists working in scenarios This dimension of professional development is highly complex and involves simultaneous teaching. It's not optional.

The mental health of medical professionals is definitely part of the quality agenda. healthcare. Significant rates of burnout among anesthesiologists have an empirical impact on... Patient safety: a cognitively exhausted professional makes more mistakes, takes more risks. Poorer decisions under pressure and less effective communication.46 Institutional strategies Humanizing shifts and offering psychological support are investments in quality, not... administrative concessions.

11. Methodological Challenges and Future Perspectives

Producing high-quality evidence in maternal and pediatric anesthesiology is genuinely difficult. Pregnant women and children, for justified ethical reasons, are excluded from a large part of the clinical trials that define the protocols adopted daily.4 Many practices They are therefore based on extrapolations from studies in adults, case series, or in

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Expert consensus. Acknowledging this is not weakness, it's methodological honesty.
The heterogeneity of pediatric oncology populations adds a layer of
Complexity. Studies that include distinct diagnoses and chemotherapy protocols.
They exhibit sufficient variability to compromise the isolation of the effect of any
Specific anesthetic intervention. The use of techniques such as propensity scoring mitigates part of the risk.
of this problem, without eliminating the need for large samples and prospective studies. 49
Standardizing clinically relevant outcomes remains an unresolved challenge.
incorporation of functional outcomes, quality of surgical recovery, post-operative chronic pain
operative, cognitive dysfunction and impact on neonatal neurocognitive development requires
prolonged follow-up and standardized assessment instruments are still scarce in
pediatric literature. 48
Technological prospects deserve critical attention, but not uncritical enthusiasm. Systems of
Artificial intelligence capable of predicting episodes of hypotension minutes before they occur.
clinical tools, such as the Hypotension Prediction Index, evaluated in prospective studies 50,
They represent a paradigm shift in monitoring: from reaction to prevention.
perioperative pharmacogenomics, whose initial applications have already been discussed in this article, and the
closed-loop infusion systems guided by anesthetic depth monitoring
These are other developing frontiers.
None of these technologies will replace clinical judgment, but all of them can enhance it.
The anesthesiologist's ability to act with greater precision and less variability, provided that
They should be incorporated with proper training and rigorous evaluation of their real benefits.

12. Limitations

This review has limitations inherent to its narrative design and the absence of a protocol.
formalized search (PRISMA), the possibility of selection bias in references, the absence
due to systematic assessment of the risk of bias and the impossibility of quantitatively synthesizing the findings.
The broad thematic scope limits the depth of analysis in each domain; readers who
Those seeking a thorough review of any specific topic should consult sources.
complementary.
Extrapolating evidence from adult populations to neonates, infants, and
children, necessary given the scarcity of high-quality pediatric studies, carries
Uncertainties that cannot be ignored. The perioperative physiology of a newborn...

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28 weeks differs substantially from that of a healthy adult, and strategies validated in a
The methodological heterogeneity of contexts does not automatically apply to one another.
Reviewed studies, with a predominance of observational evidence in some domains, reinforces
The need for prospective multicenter studies in maternal and child anesthesiology.

Conclusion

High-complexity maternal and pediatric anesthesiology is a specialty that requires, at the same time...
At the same time, technical precision and a systemic vision. The reviewed evidence confirms that
multimodal analgesia, protective ventilation, individualized monitoring, and volume management
Goal-oriented approaches contribute to the reduction of perioperative complications in populations.
Vulnerable, not as isolated interventions, but as components of a behavior.
Integrated perioperative period.
Specific issues, such as the carefully individualized management of FiO2 in patients.
In patients exposed to bleomycin, the choice of vasopressors in obstetric anesthesia is guided by the patient profile.
Hemodynamic monitoring of the parturient, correction of the perioperative catabolic state with carbohydrates
rapid absorption in ERAS protocols and the real limitations of dynamic indices of
Fluid responsiveness in pediatric settings illustrates how technical expertise in
Specialization requires ongoing scientific updating and critical reading of the literature.
The training of new specialists, through qualified preceptorship, assessment based on
Skills and training in simulation are not a secondary function of referral services;
It is a constitutive part of its care mission. Services that provide good training better protect their [people/services].
patients, and this relationship is causal, not merely correlational.
Emerging technological innovations, predictive artificial intelligence, pharmacogenomics
perioperative and closed-loop systems will expand the customization capabilities of
Caution. What can be stated based on the available evidence is that these tools
They will function best in the hands of professionals with solid clinical training and critical judgment.
Developed institutional security culture. Technology amplifies competence, but
It doesn't replace it.

Statements

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflicts of interest related to...

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Ethical Approval: Because this is a narrative review of the scientific literature, without data collection. Since this study involved individual patient studies and no intervention in human beings, approval from a Research Ethics Committee was not required. **Author's Contribution:** The author was responsible for the conception, literature review, critical analysis, drafting and final approval of the manuscript. **Data availability:** Not applicable, as this is a narrative review of the manuscript. Literature. **Acknowledgments:** Not applicable.

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