

Editorial

Role of Anaesthesiologists for Anaesthesia

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168 years ago, on 16th October, 1846, Sir William TG Morton did the first successful demonstration of either anaesthesia. It ranks as one of the most significant event in the history of medicine which made it possible for patients to obtain the benefits of surgical treatments without the pain associated with it. World anaesthesia day is celebrated every year on this day, to commemorate this event. Anaesthesiology has emerged as one of the most diverse specialty in medical science ranging from pre-operative care of the patient to pain management. Critical care, palliative care, labour analgesia, and emergency and trauma management. Anaesthesiologist does place a decisive role in patient management. With the advent of newer and safer drug, better drug delivery system and formulation of optimal management plans, anaesthesia has become very safe. Morality from anaesthesia is even less than that from road traffic accidents in general population. This is due to the excellent care provided by anaesthesiologist and despite this, leave alone the general population even, the surgeons still fail to acknowledge the contribution of this branch of modern medicine. Many surveys have been conducted till date to study the perception about anaesthesia and anaesthesiologist across various socio economic strata and literacy level in general population. The results have been very disappointing. Many think that the anaesthesiologists are technicians not trained doctors. Many feel that the anaesthesiologists job is done once the patient is put to sleep. Many don't even bother who their anaesthesiologist was. In western countries the situation is slightly better but with very little change attitude.

To clarify, the anaesthesiologist is the qualified MBBS Doctor who has done post graduation in anaesthesia and in some specialization like pain

medicine, intensive care medicine, cardiac or neuro anaesthesia etc. similar to their surgical colleagues practicing in specialized fields. He / she is actually every patients internist and physicians to the surgeons. The professional work of anaesthesiologists can be described as providing anaesthesia for surgery and controlling / monitoring the patients vital functions, help elevate pain and anxiety in patients, caring for critical ill and be a good manager to ensure smooth functioning of the operation theaters.

The anaesthetist society (TAS) and online society founded by a group of anaesthesiologist / anaesthetist from all over the world, has taken important steps in formulating a questionnaire which include five must asked questions by every patient to surgeon and the hospital treating them.

The question include:

- a) Will a qualified anaesthesiologist provide me anaesthesia?
- b) Will the anaesthesiologist / anaesthetist look after me during and after the operation?
- c) Do you have all the necessary machines and monitoring to provide safe anaesthesia?
- d) What different options do you provide for anaesthesia and pain relief for the operation?
- e) What facilities do you have to provide safe after case if I develop complications.

This is to ensure safe anaesthesia, safe surgery and safe patient. This noble initiative of TAS is to wipe out the ignorance about anaesthesia and anaesthesiologists amongst general public, improve the image of the anaesthesiologist and to project anaesthesiologists as perioperative physicians in the eye of the general public, and the surgical specialties who use their services.