



Knowledge Regarding Anesthesiologist and Anaesthesia among Patients Attending Pre Anesthetic Check Up in Tertiary Care Hospital

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Anesthesiologist is a proficient specialist who provides continuous medical care to enable the patient to live a normal life. Anesthesiologists are the Physicians specialized in life saving procedures, development of anesthetic plan, and administration of anesthetics. Despite an important branch many studies in different parts of India revealed that general population are not aware of this specialty. This study was conducted with the objective to assess the knowledge of the patients on anesthesiologist and anaesthesia attending tertiary care hospital.

Material & Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted among 150 patients in age group of 18-80 years coming for preanaesthetic checkup outpatient department for elective surgery.

Results: In the current study, the mean age of the participants was 45.43 ± 17.86 years with a range of 18-75 yrs. About 51.3% were females and 48.7% were male. 33% of the patients were graduate followed by 20% with higher secondary, 19% with secondary, 15% with matriculation and 12% of the patients with primary education status. About 94 (62.3%) of the participants knew that anesthesiologists played an important role in intra operative care. While 42% (63) of the participants recognized them as doctors and not as assistant.

Keywords: Knowledge, Anesthesiologist, Tertiary hospital, anaesthesia

Introduction:

Anesthesiology, or anaesthesia is the medical specialty deals with the total perioperative care of patients before, during and after surgery.¹ It includes anesthesia, emergency care and pain medicine.² A Physician specialized in this discipline is known as an anesthesiologist, anaesthesiologist, or anaesthetist, depending on the country.³ From past 150 years tremendous growth has occurred in this branch and it has evolved to the most advanced specialties. Despite of this advancement it is still undervalued and consider as "Behind the screen" specialty.⁴ People consider anaesthesiologist as an assistant to doctors or other staff. The reason might be due to no direct interaction with the patients. Although they play a very important role in patient management still various studies revealed that the knowledge and awareness of the population about this profession remains poor and their contribution goes unnoticed.

As told by Kilafta JM et al⁵ that with the changing health-care environment and advancement in anesthesiology, the patients and general public need to be educated. Hence, this study was undertaken with the objective of assessing the knowledge of the patients on anesthesiologist attending tertiary care hospital.

Material and Methods:

Study Design: Observational

Study Area: Department of Anaesthesiology, Dr RPGMC Kangra at Tanda, Himachal Pradesh.

Study Population- After approval by institutional Ethical Committee the study was carried out on 150 patients of both genders in age group of 18-80 years.

Study duration: Jan 2021- Oct-2021

Sample Size: All the patients who had come to the pre-anesthetic checkup OPD for elective surgery within this duration and who fulfilled our inclusion and exclusion criteria were included in the study.

- Informed written consent was taken from all the participants. Confidentiality of the selected participants was also maintained and those who refused to participate and were in poor medical condition were excluded from the study.

- Description of Tool: Self administered, pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire consisted of : Section A-Socio-demographic characteristics of the patients (Age, Gender etc.)
- Sections B- Questions regarding knowledge about anaesthesiologist and anaesthesia
- Validity of tool - by the experts in this field
- Data was analyzed with appropriate statistical test in terms of frequencies and percentage.

Results

The prospective and observational study assessed the knowledge of the patients on anaesthesia and anaesthesiologist attending tertiary care hospital. In the current study, 51.3% were females and 48.7% were male. The mean age of the participants was 45.43 ± 17.86 years with a range of 18-75 yrs. About 33% of the patients were graduate followed by 20% with higher secondary, 19% with secondary, 15% with matriculation and 12% of the patients with primary education status.

In the present study about 42% of the participants were aware that anaesthesiologists are doctors and 62% knew that they played important role during intraoperative period as shown in table 3.

Table 1: Demographic profile (Gender)

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	73	48.7%
Female	77	51.3%

Table 2: Demographic profile(Age)

Age(yrs)	Number	Percentage
<20	20	13.3
21-40	36	24
41-60	64	42.7
>61	30	20

Table3: Knowledge regarding Anaesthesiologist and Anaesthesia

S.NO	Questions	Frequency Yes(%)
1	Is anaesthesiologist a doctor	63(42%)
2	Does anaesthesiologist have role in management of patient during the operation	94(62.3%)
3	Does anaesthesiologist have role in management of patient in post operative period	33(22%)
4	Is anesthesiology a separate medical branch	57(38%)
5	Do you know about General Anaesthesia	87(58%)
6	Do you know about Regional Anaesthesia	36(24%)
7	Do you know about Day Care Anaesthesia	18(12%)
8	Any Anaesthetic complication you know?	21(14%)
9	Did you have previous Anaesthesia exposure	15(10%)
10	Does Hypertension & Diabetes Mellitus increases the risks of anaesthesia	35(23%)

DISCUSSION:

The results obtained in this study showed that the knowledge of people about this specialty is not much. Our result corresponds with the study done by Tulika Singh et al⁶ in which 32.8% of the study participants were aware that anaesthesiologist are doctors. However, 62% of the participants knew that have important role during operative period similar to study conducted by Tulika et al⁶.

Although only 22% were aware of the role in post operative period contrary to other studies.⁷ The reason might be that we had few patients who had previous exposure of anaesthesia. When asked about the branch about 38% knew that it is a separate discipline. About half of the participants were aware of terms like general anaesthesia similar to study conducted in Pakistan.⁸

There was lack of awareness on terms like Day care Anaesthesia, regional anaesthesia and also complications like post operative pain, postdural puncture headache, paraplegia, hypotension, spasm, etc. similar to Prashant prakash et al⁹. Co morbidities like Hypertension, Diabetes, Asthma associated with it these findings were supported by Singh et al¹⁰.

Making people aware about this advanced and life saving specialty will help people to reduce their anxiety related to operation. It will also help to reduce the complications that may perpetuate due to pre anxiety related to surgery. Better communication helps in improving doctor-patient

relationship, lowers the malpractice litigation and reducing morbidity. Various health communication tools can be used to educate people and improve their knowledge.

Conclusion:

Our study revealed that there is ignorance among the population about Anaesthesia and Anaesthesiologist. Educating people will help in improving Doctor-Patient relationship and reducing morbidity.

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