

## **MALIGNANT HYPERTHERMIA: AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**

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Finding ways to help staff remember information regarding how to deal with low volume, high risk situations is challenging. The more staff are exposed to a situation or presented with education the more the information is understood and therefore remembered.

Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a low volume, high risk situation that was incorporated into our Perioperative services' annual validations in practice (VIP). The staff included Pre/Post-Operative staff as well as OR staff. Education for MH was presented in four different stages. The first stage involved written information provided to all staff members. Next, all staff members attended annual competency validations in a Simulation Lab where they were required to recognize the beginning stages of MH in a simulated scenario. After the scenario, the diagnosis and treatment of MH were discussed. Thirdly many of the staff were able to participate in a mock drill using a traveling "SIM Man" which involved Anesthesia, staff from the OR and pre/postoperative area. The mock drill was videoed. Lastly, a debriefing using the video was presented at multiple staff meetings to involve as many of the staff as possible.

As a result the perioperative education team placed cards, utilized during the mock code, into the MH kits for future reference in an MH situation. Response from the staff and the physicians was overwhelmingly positive. Accessibility to meaningful education is essential to furthering the practice of perianesthesia nursing. Maintaining competencies and teaching the newest advances allow staff to be advocates for the safe care of patients