Stroke is a risk associated with general anesthesia. In the past, neurological assessment in the PACU focused on those patients who have undergone major neurological procedures. Risk for stroke is real and can occur in patients who have all types of procedures. This presentation will discuss the risks for stroke associated with anesthesia, components of the perianesthesia neurological assessment and incorporating the assessment into your everyday perianesthesia practice.

Outline
I. Risks of anesthesia and outcomes – focus on neurological implications
   A. Stroke
   B. Other potential neurological complications:
      1. Postoperative cognitive dysfunction
      2. Dementia
      3. Emergence excitement, delirium
      4. Delayed arousal
II. Components of the perianesthesia neurological assessment
   A. Elements of assessment
   B. Preanesthesia assessment – baseline
   C. Postanesthesia assessment – on arrival, ongoing
III. Assessing the patient in the perianesthesia setting
   A. Process and documentation
   B. Reporting findings
   C. Value of assessment and continuity of care
   D. Case presentation

References