

PERIOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH ICDS AND PACEMAKERS

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Background Information:

Electrocautery use in surgery can disrupt the functioning of a cardiovascular implantable electronic device (CIED). Lack of understanding and inconsistent management of CIEDs by anesthesiologists caused surgical delays and cancellations. Due to the lack of clear recommendations prior to July 2011, our institution required preoperative device clearance within two weeks of surgery which was thought to protect patients and decrease liability. Often, device representatives were asked to interrogate devices on the day of surgery. This interaction between device representatives, anesthesiologists and perianesthesia nurses was at times contentious, contributing to a hostile work environment.

Objectives:

- Develop a standard process for preoperative device interrogation
- Decrease day of surgery delays or cancellations related to device management
- Improve interprofessional perianesthesia team work
- Assure perioperative patient safety

Process of implementation:

Working with key stakeholders a new process was implemented utilizing evidence based 2011 published guidelines, we were able to streamline the interprofessional management of patients with devices, improve the work environment and maintain patient safety.

Statement of the successful practice: There has been a decrease in cancellations, delays and need for device vendor support. This has resulted in increased efficiency and an improved work milieu.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing:

Perianesthesia nurses involvement and deeper understanding in the safe care of this complex patient population. Identification of device malfunction, generator end of life and a history of recent tachyarrhythmia therapy prior to surgery provides an opportunity for the care team to formulate an interdisciplinary and individualized plan of care.

Reference

Crossley, G. H., MD, Poole, J. E., Rozner, M. A. et al 2011, The Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)/American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Expert Consensus Statement on the Perioperative Management of Patients with Implantable Defibrillators, Pacemakers and Arrhythmia Monitors: Facilities and Patient Management. Heart Rhythm Vol 8, (7), pp.1114-1154.