



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Clinical Practice: Frequently Asked Question

Q: What is the recommendation from ASPAN on a patient coming from an inpatient floor on a Precedex drip? If we are titrating what is the recommendation for monitoring/ staffing, & if the drip is at threshold, what is the monitoring/staffing for preop holding?

A: Intravenous Dexmedetomidine is frequently used for intubated patients in the intensive care unit for sedation before surgery and intraoperatively. ASPAN does not have a specific recommendation on the use of intravenous Dexmedetomidine for intubated patients transferred to the PACU. It is important to know your state board of registered nursing practice regulations regarding intravenous Dexmedetomidine. In determining guidelines for the use of intravenous Dexmedetomidine in the PACU, collaboration between the PACU staff, the anesthesia department, the pharmacy, and administration is essential to establish clear expectations.

The resources listed below provide a good overview of the topic and may be used to start conversation at your facility.

References:

1. American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses. 2023-2024 perianesthesia nursing standards, practice recommendations and interpretive statements. Cherry Hill, NJ; ASPAN.
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3. Kaye AD, Chernobylsky DJ, Thakur P, Siddaiah H, et al. Dexmedetomidine in enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocols for postoperative pain. *Curr Pain Headache Rep*. 2020 Apr 2;24(5):21. doi: 10.1007/s11916-020-00853-z. PMID: 32240402; PMCID: PMC7223065.
4. Nicholson CR, Mullen C, Frazee LA, Cucci MD. Hemodynamic adverse effects of Dexmedetomidine and Propofol in a critically ill trauma and surgical population: A retrospective cohort. *J Trauma Nurs*. 2021 May-Jun 01;28(3):149-158. doi: 10.1097/JTN.0000000000000576. PMID: 33949348

5. Reel B, Maani CV. Dexmedetomidine. [Updated 2023 May 1]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK513303>.
6. Sin JCK, Tabah A, Campher MJJ, Laupland KB, Eley VA. The effect of Dexmedetomidine on postanesthesia care unit discharge and recovery: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Anesth Analg*. 2022 Jun 1;134(6):1229-1244. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000005843. Epub 2022 Jan 27. PMID: 35085107

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