Patient-Safety Protocols in Anesthesiology: The Greek State of Play

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Presence of protocols in greek hospitals

Background and purpose: Since the launch of the Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety, Societies of Anesthesia all across Europe have been making efforts to establish protocols in everyday practice. The Hellenic Society of Anesthesiology (HSA) has issued guidelines that could serve as a basis for the protocols, whose presence is deemed mandatory in the anesthesiologists' workplace by the Helsinki Declaration. The aim of our survey was to determine to what extent are anesthesiology protocols present in the hospital environment in Greece and their application in routine anesthesiology procedures.

Results and Discussion:
102 anesthesiologists answered our questionnaires. The vast majority of responders were positively disposed towards the adoption of protocols and admitted to applying them in everyday clinical practice; however only few among the protocols on the list were widely available at their workplace.

Materials and Methods: Questionnaires were distributed via email to all anesthesiologists, registered in the HSA network. Participants had to provide information concerning their age, years of practice, whether they work in the public or private domain, in a secondary or tertiary care facility. They were also requested to declare their commitment to the use of protocols along with their opinion on its functionality, as well as accompanying drawbacks and advantages.

PROTOCOL ADVANTAGES

PROTOCOL DISADVANTAGES

OPINION ON PROTOCOL USE- NUMBER OF YEARS WORKING AS AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST

Conclusions: Even though our research's sample size is not broad enough to portray the implementation of patient safety anesthesia protocols in Greek hospitals in full extent and detail, one can tell, by inference, that it has noted a rudimental emergence since the issue of the Helsinki Declaration. Nevertheless, progress still remains to be made in terms of compliance to protocols in a routine basis. As is more, this subject ought to be better addressed in the education of the forthcoming generations of anesthetists.