Audit on fulfillment of the European new guidelines for safety in anaesthesia practice: storage

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Background:

- The European Board of Anaesthesiology stated that drugs:
 - ✓ should be stored in ways designed to facilitate their easy identification and minimise the risk of error
 - ✓ that local anaesthetics should be stored separately from anaesthetic drugs and high-risk i.v. medicines.

Aim:

- To evaluate the level of application of the safety guidelines in a tertiary university hospital.

Method:

- Observational based audit about the correct storage of diferents drugs in a Spanish tertiary hospital.
- We inspected all the anaesthesia trolleys (AT) and evaluated if the medication was correctly stored.

Results:

- 44 anaesthesia stations were audited:
 - ✓ 100% at least one socket stored > 1 medication.
 - ✓ 18% presented empty sockets.
 - ✓ 4% muscle relaxants were stored with no cooling system.
 - ✓ 31% had standard labels for use on syringes of medications.
 - ✓ 100% drugs were stored without a clear distinction between different pharmacological groups.

Conclusions:

- ❖ These results should be used to set the basis for improvement and aim at creating a culture of safety among our colleagues.
- ❖ This type of survey should encourages anaesthesiologists to take the lead in applying these practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes and reduce adverse events.

Reference:

D. Whitaker et Al. The European Board of Anaesthesiology recommendations for safe medication practice. First update. Eur J Anaesthesiol 2016; 33:1–4