

## Medicolegal aspect in anesthesiology

The number of legal actions against physicians is increasing every year. One out of four is sued in court for malpractice in his life and a good number of them are anesthesiologists.

Care should be taken in the following points:

1. Over dosage of anesthetic drugs.
2. Injury from mask, mouth gag, improper position of the patient on operating table.
3. Damage to eyes and skin.
4. Damage to teeth.
5. Injury from improper spinal. :
6. Fire, explosion, burn from cautery.
7. Injury in the recovery room.
8. Death from anesthetic mismanagement.

Precautions:

1. Do not publicly criticize the work of other doctors.
2. Do malpractice insurance.
3. Do not promise the patient too much or guarantee him.
4. Discuss the complications with the patient and his family.
5. Keep a complete medical record.
6. Examine the equipments regularly.
7. Preoperative visit to explain the way of anesthesia.
8. Informed consent for all mentally competent patients.

Except in a: emergency

b: patients under alcohol or drug effects.

In children: parents must sign.

9. All patients must wear identification bracelets (tag, label) including the following information: name, site, side, type of operation.
10. Blood should have name, expiration, cross match labels. No for Jehovah's Witness