



香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
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ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICINE

Part I Examination

Tuesday 11 June 2019

19:30 – 21:00 (1½ hours)

Paper IIB

Candidates must answer all parts of this questions

Style, clear grammatical English and legibility will be taken into consideration by the Examiners. Answers should be written in a form appropriate to the audience specified in the question.

Weighting of marks for each part of the question is shown in parenthesis.

**DO NOT OPEN PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR
INSTRUCTS YOU TO BEGIN**

You are the Medical Director of a district hospital. Your Anaesthesia Department Head has been championing routine use of Forced Air Warming System (FAWS) for all operations done under general anaesthesia (GA) to reduce the incidence of hypothermia. Such system involves a machine that pumps warm air into special plastic blankets to warm the patient through skin contact. The blankets are disposable items and come in different types to offer full or partial body cover, the latter for exposing certain body parts in intra-operative use.

Your staff tells you that the use of FAWS is very variable in the hospital, depending on individual preferences of clinicians. He strongly advocates the adoption of a suitable protocol for routine patient warming in the hospital to improve patient outcome. This would include at least 15 minutes of pre-operative warming, adequate period of post-operative warming, and application of FAWS on both the front and back of the patient as appropriate. However, he receives lukewarm response from surgeons, nurses and hospital administrators. So he comes to you for support on such initiative, and urges you to mandate its routine use for all patients undergoing GA.

Read the attached literature: (a) an article in the British Journal of Anaesthesia on the NICE Guideline on Management of Inadvertent Perioperative Hypothermia in Adults, (b) a Cochrane review article on Active Body Surface Warming System.

QUESTION CONTINUES

1. Assume that these two articles contain the best quality information you can find on the subject. Based on such information, comment on the scientific basis for routine use of FAWS for patients undergoing surgical operations under GA in your hospital. Explain your answer. (30 marks)

2. Comment on the possible reasons for lukewarm response from surgeons, nurses and hospital administrators as encountered by the Head of Anaesthesia. Besides the scientific merit of FAWS, what are factors you would take into consideration to decide whether to advocate its routine use in all surgical operations under GA? (25 marks)

3. Suppose you support formulating a clinical protocol on active body warming systems for such patients in your hospital, to be read and followed by all concerned parties. What do you envisage are the key elements that such protocol should contain? (15 marks)

4. Given the situation as described above, formulate your action plan. Describe the steps you will take and approximate timeframe of your plan to launch and review the initiative. (30 marks)

END OF PAPER

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