Introduction to the Ambulatory Anesthesia Rotation

Anesthetic techniques for ambulatory surgery are both the same and different than those used in the main operating room. Patient safety and comfort, lack of intraoperative awareness and provision of optimum operating conditions are paramount in both locations. However, in the ambulatory surgery setting efficiency, throughput and patient satisfaction play a particularly important role. In addition, there are obvious fundamental differences between an ambulatory surgery setting in a hospital environment and a free standing surgery center in a distant location.

During this rotation an effort will be made to introduce you to these concepts using of relevant articles from the anesthesia literature, intraoperative experience and teaching and in depth discussions on relevant topics both in and out of the operating room.

Nuts and Bolts

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Patients are to be in the operating room by 0720. Therefore you should arrive in the morning early enough to allow for room setup and patient interview BEFORE attending the morning conference

Intravenous catheters are generally inserted for us by the SAMA nursing personnel but they may appreciate your help on a busy morning.

In contrast to the Main OR, IV fluid setup is not done in SAMA; therefore you will need to have this ready in your room.

Patients generally walk back to the OP so you should generally not administer sedatives or narcotics in the preoperative area.

Surgical cases tend to be relatively short and room turnover is relatively fast so you may need to set up IV fluids, drugs and other necessary items for multiple cases ahead of time. It is expected that you will generally not delay cases because of the need to prepare your anesthesia essentials.

The anesthesia supply room is in the rear of the suite and contains most necessary drugs, supplies, including a Glide Scope and a portable, self-contained fiberoptic bronchoscope. Door code 2-3: drug cabinet code 0023. The drug refrigerator key can be found in the drug cabinet.
We have anesthesia technician support as in the main OR. However if the technician is busy you are expected to turn over your anesthesia machine and equipment yourself.

Expect to work hard here in Same Day Surgery. Although the general medical acuity of the patients and the complexity of the surgical procedures tend to be less than that found in the main OR, we have rapid turnover, the not-so-occasional sick patient and surgical nuances you may not have experienced previously. Days often run until 1700 or later and relief from the main OR is not common. This setting closely approximates what you will experience in a bread and butter general anesthesiology private practice. I hope you find this an educational and rewarding experience.