

IJJ 2

SECOND PRIZE

Most Memorable anaesthetic Experience

Mr MFB aged 39 years was brought into my hospital about a month ago with a diagnosis of closed femur fracture after being involved in a road traffic accident about four hours ago. After admission surgery was planned for a later date. I went to assess the patient and found out that two units of blood were already cross-matched and all laboratory results were ready. He has haemoglobin of 10.1g/dl.

The day came when the patient was brought into theatre for open reduction and internal fixation. After consultation with the Orthopaedic Surgeon, we decided to use General Anaesthesia as the Surgeon said we would be expected to spend about four hours or more. Patient was reassured on the table after everything (drugs, machines) was ready. After pre-oxygenating, patient was induced with Ketamine, relaxed with Suxamethonium and intubation was done. The doctor anaesthetist I was working with decided that patient be maintained with only Halothane and Vecuronium, that is exactly what was being done.

The surgery was difficult, patient was sweating profusely throughout the procedure. Vecuronium was being given at every 10 minutes intervals at 2mg each, and Halothane 2%. The halothane was close to expiry date. The Doctor anaesthetist kept shouting when there is a power cut and machines go off, patient will die, patient will die. The surgical procedure lasted for six hours. Patient was reversed and taken to the ward after recovery.

When I came on duty the following morning the security guards at the gates were the first to tell me that the patient explained every procedure that took place during his surgery including what was being said by the Doctor Anaesthetist, and all other things that were said. I went to see him and he did the same, I was very much discouraged and disappointed in our previous technique. When I consulted with my professor and explained all our procedures he said it is because patient was being paralyzed but was not sleeping, and he was feeling so much pain that's why he was sweating.