

Need for Recovery Room at Connaught Operating Theatre

The operating theatre at Connaught Hospital is highly in need of a recovery room to receive patients who are just coming from theatre. Many patients have died as a result of operations, not because they were not handled properly during surgery, but because of several reasons that I will list. As it is believed that any death occurring after surgery within 72 hours is surely the responsibility of the anaesthetist. Below are some of the reasons why the Connaught Theatre needs a recovery room to attend to patients who still need care from theatre.

The first reason why the above theatre needs a recovery room is that there are just two operating theatres in use. The list of patients to be operated on for a day is so long that most patients are moved out to the wards not fully conscious. Since there are no recovery rooms they are taken to the wards and most times the care there is not good or sufficient to look after the patient's needs. If there is a recovery room such patient should be received in there and looked after before being taken to the wards.

The second reason is that there are unskilled nurses on the wards to adequately take over patients care when they come out of theatre with an endotracheal tube in – not extubated. This normally happens when a patient was reversed but there is delayed recovery from anaesthesia. Such patient needs to be in recovery in the capable hands of skilled nurses and at a good view of help in crisis. But because they are taken to the wards to be cared for by untrained and careless nurses, most times death is reported on the night of surgery or the day after.

Thirdly, Connaught Hospital does not have Oxygen at all. Even in the operating theatre, we have only Oxygen concentrators for anaesthesia. If patients that are semiconscious that might need steady flow of Oxygen until they gain consciousness are taken directly to the wards, most likely than often the patient goes bad and by the time they are brought back to theatre for resuscitation they are dead. A life could be saved if there was a recovery room to keep these patients until they are fully conscious.

Although there are so many other anaesthetic needs at Connaught Hospital to be provided, a recovery room that is fully equipped with skilful hands, Oxygen and other important or relevant anaesthetic drugs and equipment, stands out to be necessary. We will be very grateful if this area is given consideration to prevent unnecessary death occurring.

Thanks

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Nurse Anaesthetist