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RVC

My most memorable Anesthetic Experience

My most memorable Anesthetic experience started in the year 1982 when I had just graduated from the Anaesthesia school.

I was assigned to the operating theatre with one of the senior supervisors on the surgical wing and I noticed he did not come to work that day. I was a bit afraid knowing I had just graduated and had not really built up my confidence. I consoled myself, and accepted my assignment as a challenge.

In Anesthesia school my professors had as our motto Don't boast of being the best Anesthetist but a safe anesthetist, I also accepted the challenge.

As I was on duty that day, they brought in an emergency diagnosed as Intestinal obstruction. I went to examine the patient and found out that the diagnosis was correct.

The patient was rolled in the theatre and I immediately started to assess him. I put in an NG tube in order to empty the excess fluids from the abdomen. The tube drained very well and I was satisfied. The patient was not very restless therefore I started to assemble my things needed for intubation.

The patient had a very good IV going of RL 1000ml, P 110/70, HB 11.5. After it was done stat I told the scrub nurse to get ready call in the Dr and I was ready to start.

I decided to intubate the patient and selected a tube of 7.5 because it was a female patient 36 years old with a neck tongue all just the right size with no dentures or teeth missing.

I was still afraid because I was not on my own as yet and was still working with supervisors. This day, I was on my own. I give atropine, diazepam and also Ketamine with scoline and tried to intubate, my first attempt failed. Then, we had no monitors only the BP machine I hurriedly took the BP after suctioning it was 100 over 60. I made another attempt and I made it. I was so happy I thought I had entered into a new World.

This was my very first independent intubation. I kept the patient on Norcuron and Ketamine when needed and the operation lasted for about an hour. After I reversed the patient by suctioning and using my reversal, the patient came through. This was one of the happiest moment of my life.