

Advances and challenges of obstetric anesthesia and analgesia

Background: The altered maternal physiology and the effects of medicines on both mother and fetus are important considerations while delivering obstetric analgesia and anesthesia. High-risk pregnancies make the anesthetic practice more challenging. The aging obstetric population suffers from systemic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, and coronary artery disease. Moreover, corrected congenital heart diseases with systemic compromise and maternal adiposity also pose threats for maternal well being and need special anesthetic care pathways.

Importance: Prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality is the universal aim. The anesthesia-related maternal collapse (e.g. failed intubation, ventilation, and hypoxia) is a rare but serious complication and needs the input of experienced anesthetists. Moreover, the anesthetists need to consider the well-being of the mother and baby while administering analgesia and anesthesia. The use of point of care ultrasound to help in managing obstetric anesthetic emergencies is an evolving technique and needs further evaluation. The preoperative assessment and preempting the complications help in preventing anesthesia-related maternal morbidity and mortality in high-risk pregnancies. The role of teamwork and effective communication can't be overemphasized during routine as well as difficult obstetric anesthetic emergencies.

Goal: The goal of this special edition is to support a platform for researchers to discuss and share their latest findings, research, and innovative concepts/opinions about "the advances and challenges of the obstetric anesthesia and analgesia." It would also provide an insight of general and regional anesthesia in high-risk patients and/or Point of Care Ultrasound in obstetric anesthesia"



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