

Postoperative recovery: the importance of the team

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An ageing population and rising healthcare costs are challenging cost-efficient hospital systems wanting to adapt, employing novel organisational structures designed to merge diverse skill sets. This needs not only physician and nursing leadership but also new models of care. Anaesthetists have expanded their role into the broader multidisciplinary field of peri-operative medicine, emphasising collaboration and safety in health teams. A greater focus on patient-centred care and shared decision making, along with validated metrics to quantify quality improvement activities, have emphasised the importance of comfort, patient satisfaction and quality of life after surgery. Shared decision-making is more likely to be manifest in a flat hierarchy in which each member of the team brings their own experience and skills to optimise patient care. Successful surgery is best achieved by a coordinated, multidisciplinary team, embedded in a culture of collaboration and safety.

1. The ageing population and rising healthcare costs are making it difficult for:

- a) Hospitals to reduce staff
- b) Hospitals to adjust and improve their systems

2. To face these challenges, hospitals need:

- a) More individual leaders
- b) New ways of organizing teams with different skills

3. Anaesthetists have taken on a bigger role in:

- a) Managing only the anaesthesia during surgery
- b) Working in the broader field of peri-operative medicine

4. Patient-centred care focuses on:

- a) The doctor making all the decisions
- b) Working together with the patient and caring for their comfort

5. Shared decision-making works best in:

- a) A system where one person is the boss
- b) A system where everyone in the team shares ideas and skills

6. Patient satisfaction and good recovery after surgery depend on:

- a) The doctor's skill alone
- b) The teamwork of different healthcare professionals

7. Successful surgery happens when:

- a) Only the surgeon works alone
- b) The team works together and supports each other

8. Anaesthetists are important because they:

- a) Only make sure the patient is asleep during surgery
- b) Work with the whole team to keep the patient safe and comfortable

9. Validated metrics are used to:

- a) Measure how well the team works together
- b) Measure only the surgeon's work

10. The article says that good care after surgery comes from:

- a) Having only the doctor lead the team
- b) Working together with everyone's skills in a safe, patient-focused way