

Problem Based Learning Discussion (PBLD): June 2018. Delegate's notes sheet.

Robert M Raw MD
MBChB, MFGP, MPraxMed, DS, FCA.
Professor of Anesthesia to 2016
Editor Regional-Anesthesia.Com

90 year old lady with femur fracture aortic stenosis and coumadin therapy

At conclusion of this PBLD Dr. Raw will provide an internet link to down-load the PBLD answers document.

CASE DETAILS: A lady of 90 years of age has a pole fall onto her thigh, and she acquires an open distal femur fracture. The surgeons, would ideally like to washout, reduce and plate the fracture. The lady is in pain. Prior to the injury she was ambulatory and lived at home with her family. She was orientated previously and knew her great grand children's names. She walked about the house. Her medical records state she had a severe aortic stenosis with a loud mid-systolic murmur, and for a long time according to her daughter. She is on coumadin therapy "because of her heart". Her granddaughter is her legal guardian. Assume all other health aspects are normal for age or not significantly deranged.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS;

1. Would anybody recommend surgery for this lady or alternatively recommend no treatment and only provide analgesia? Motivate the answers that you choose.
2. What are the risks to this patient of being operated upon?
Estimated intra-operative death chance =
3. What are the risks to the patient of not being operated?
Estimated chance of dying within 1 month, un-operated =
Estimated chance of dying within one year, un-operated =
4. Assuming one proceeds to surgery, tabulate the foremost anesthesia challenges.
5. Discuss separately, the anesthesia management options in context of each patient physiology and medications aspect.
 - *Liver impaired drug clearance;*
 - *Endocrine system;*
 - *Renal system;*
 - *Respiratory system;*
 - *Cardiac function;*
 - *Anticoagulation;*
6. Choose your personal complete anesthesia plan for this lady.
 - Would your plan change were she not anticoagulated?
 - Would your plan change if you discovered she had never had angiography of her heart nor ultrasound examination?
 - What are the regional anesthesia options one could consider for this lady?
 - How would you do general anesthesia for this lady?
 - What special monitoring would you use during the anesthetic?
7. Would you ever consider referring her to another colleague for anesthesia care or to another center for anesthesia and surgery care?
8. You discover, during a ward round, on the morning before surgery that a grandson of the lady, whom you have not met yet, is asking her to sign an updated will. Does this concern you and do you act in any way?