

includes a different attitude towards outpatient procedures. Surgeons, anaesthetists, nursing staff and patients have to adjust so that more procedures can be done safely as outpatient procedures or ambulatory surgery than traditionally was believed or assumed possible.

PG

Outpatient surgery: Why? How?

(Original title: La chirurgie ambulatoire. Pourquoi? Comment?)

LF Hollender

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One-day surgery -- defined by the fact that the patient enters the clinic in the morning and returns home late in the afternoon -- requires the observation of a whole range of criteria which are absolutely necessary to guarantee the highest possible security. At first an outstanding collaboration with the anaesthetist is mandatory. Material conditions of its practice should not be neglected. Rooms and medical staff have to be appropriate. Indications of its performance are large but depend on the

experience of the surgeon. Limits are ruled by the general status of the patient and also by his social conditions and his surroundings, not forgetting excellent collaboration with the general practitioner. Economic advantages seem obvious but have to be calculated. It is above all necessary to persuade the public hospital administrations and the social security structures, of the interest and the advantages of one-day surgery.

Comments

Most reports on ambulatory surgery originate from authors familiar with the English literature. This paper shows that ambulatory surgery has gained interest in France as well. The abstract starts with a clear definition of one-day surgery. This is important, because one-day surgery might vary from removal of a sebaceous cyst to a laparoscopic cholecystectomy, where the patient is discharged from the hospital within 24 hours after the procedure. It is obvious that these definitions influence the percentage of procedures that can be done in ambulatory surgery. Hospital administrators and health insurance companies tend to base their calculations on these percentages. In addition, the abstract summarizes the core elements for initiating successful ambulatory surgery.

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