Introduction

Effortless, associative, unconscious, rules stored in memory as schemas, acquisition by biology, exposure and personal experience.

Heuristics

- Intuitive decision-making
- Mental shortcuts or rules of thumbs
- Guides decision-making when available information is limited, and a faster decision-making strategy is necessary
- Emergency situations

Effortful, deductive and analytical, self-aware, knowledge-based, acquisition by cultural and formal tuition.

Metacognitive Regulation

- Cognitive debiasing strategy
- Allows for reflection on the thinking process
- Examines conflicting evidence and consideration of alternative options

The proposed outcome of this practice change was to describe approaches that will help to identify and/or improve decision making errors.

Background & Significance

Patient Safety: impacted by decisions made by anesthesia providers.

Cognitive process of decision-making affected by: inconsistent approach to patient management, practice variability, and noncompliance with evidence-based guidelines (Steigler & Tung, 2014).

Cognitive factors that influence the decision-making process: heuristics, bias, and overconfidence.

Preventable hospital deaths linked to medical errors: among the top 3 causes of patient deaths in the U.S.
- 123 closed malpractice claims involving CRNAs that could have been avoided.
- 65% of the causes led by errors in judgement
- Cognitive biases - a subcategory of errors in judgement

Safe practice in anesthesia
- Appropriate level of confidence
- Adherence to evidence

Methodology

Qualitative, Descriptive, pilot study

Sample RNAs graduating in 2021 & 2022 (n = 42), CRNAs (n = 21), Anesthesiologists (n = 3)

Intervention

Threat

What if the life is limb threatening conditions in this patient?

W

What Else

What if I am wrong? What else could it be?

E

Evidence

Do I have sufficient evidence, or should I exclude this diagnosis?

D

Dispositional Factors

What are the environmental & emotional dispositions influencing my decision?