The Role of the Anesthesia Provider

Healthcare Accessibility & Quality

- With the above rise in individuals openly identifying as transgender comes the heightened chance of encountering in surgical settings
- Anesthesia providers must be mindful of intricacies in each transgender patient's journey relating to medical-surgical care
- From valid use of name & pronouns to considerations surrounding the perioperative environment, anesthesia must be well-informed in order to provide safe, patient-centered care for this population
- Traditional anesthesia education generally lacks sufficient focus on the unique anesthetic implications for the transgender patient
- Providers acknowledge the importance of transgender-specific training but only less than half of them have received such training
- Inherent scarcity of education focusing on perioperative care of the transgender individual contributes to ongoing marginalization

This Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) project intended to unveil any deficiencies in knowledge, skill, and comfort of anesthesia providers on the specific perioperative needs of patients identifying as transgender

Demographic Data

- 37 total responses to the gap analysis survey
  - CRNAs: n = 37; Physician Anesthesiologists: n = 0
  - 67% of respondents had 0-5 years of experience; 22% had 5-10 years, & 11% had > 10 years of experience
- Study Design: Quasi-Experimental with Gap Analysis Survey
- Aims & Objectives: Evaluate the current knowledge, skill, and comfort of anesthesia providers caring for transgender individuals
  - Collection of gap analysis surveys, statistical analysis of accumulated data to evaluate current educational deficits, compose anesthesia-related education & disseminate education
- Participants: Physician Anesthesiologists & Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Sample: Large private anesthesia group contracted to work in 597-bed academic hospital in northern New Jersey (N=100; n = 37)
- Setting: Online gap analysis via Qualtrics software survey tool followed by tailored educational presentation disseminated in-person on December 15th, 2021
- Study Instruments: Gap Analysis Survey – Trans* Health Education Evaluation Scale (THEES) adapted from Congdon et al. (2021)
- Data Collection: October 18th, 2021 to November 15th, 2021

Preferred Method of Education:

- 48% of respondents chose an In-Person Presentation
  - 47% disagreed and 8% strongly disagreed

Gender-Affirmative Perioperative Care of the Transgender Patient: A Gap Analysis of Anesthesia Providers

- Completion of the following survey by the participant is implied consent for knowledge to the study.
- Please select the most appropriate choice that best describes you:
  - 1: Physician Anesthesiologist
  - 2: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
  - 3: Other Perioperative Health Care Provider
- Years of practice:
  - 0-4 years
  - 5-9 years
  - 10-14 years
  - 15-19 years
  - 20+ years
- Preferred method of education:
  - 1: Online Lecture/Conference
  - 2: Online Conference/Handout
  - 3: In-person Lecture/Handout
  - 4: Other
- Technical aspects of gender-specific care for transgender patients are important
  - 1: Strongly agree
  - 2: Agree
  - 3: Neutral
  - 4: Disagree
  - 5: Strongly disagree
- Learning how to comfortably use the term gender identity and gender expression
  - 1: Strongly agree
  - 2: Agree
  - 3: Neutral
  - 4: Disagree
  - 5: Strongly disagree
- Participation in pre-operative assessment and care for transgender individuals
  - 1: Strongly agree
  - 2: Agree
  - 3: Neutral
  - 4: Disagree
  - 5: Strongly disagree
- Ability to utilize proper and sensitive terminology
  - 1: Strongly agree
  - 2: Agree
  - 3: Neutral
  - 4: Disagree
  - 5: Strongly disagree

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Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient

- Positive correlation amongst participants with low responses on Q6 also had low responses on Q3, Q4, & Q5 (p < 0.005)

Recommendations

- No Physician Anesthesiologist Responses – Study sample not a true representation of intended population of anesthesia providers
- Future studies could focus on knowledge-based survey questions, especially with this group of anesthesia providers where they perform gender-affirming surgeries often

Limitations

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- Future studies could focus on knowledge-based survey questions, especially with this group of anesthesia providers where they perform gender-affirming surgeries often

References

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