Cardiac Surgery in the Jehovah’s Witness

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Patient Demographics

- 71-year-old Male
- *Minimally Invasive Mitral Valve Repair & MAZE Procedure*
- Past Medical History
Patient Demographics (cont’d)

• Social History
• Medications
• Anesthetic History
• Cultural Diversity
Pre-surgical Consultation

• Medical Advisors ~ “Elders”
• Surgeon competent in minimally invasive cardiac surgery
• Blood Conservation
  • Vitamin C
  • Oral Iron Supplement
  • Folic Acid
Preoperative Evaluation

• EKG
• Echocardiogram
• Chest X-ray
## Preoperative Evaluation (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hgb</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hct</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>165,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT/INR</td>
<td>19/2.88</td>
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<td>PTT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Na</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cl</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co₂</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gluc</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bun</td>
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<td>Creat</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>&gt; 60</td>
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</table>
Perioperative Management

- Preoperative
  - Left brachial arterial line
  - IV Induction
- Intraoperative
  - Cell-saver circuit
Perioperative Management (cont’d)

• Intraoperative
  • Intubation
  • Invasive Lines
Perioperative Management (cont’d)

• Maintenance
• Medications
• Fluids
• Alternative options

• Emergence
Postoperative Management

- Hemoglobin dropped a total 2.5gr
- Blood Conservation
  - Recommendations
  - Orders from surgeon
CULTURAL DIVERSITY
• Jehovah’s Witnesses follow the Bible

• Blood Transfusion Beliefs

• Biblical texts: *Genesis* 9:4; *Leviticus* 17:10; *and Acts* 17:29
“Everything that lives and moves will be food for you...But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it.”
“If anyone of the house of Israel or of the strangers who reside among them partakes of any blood...I will cut him off from among his kin...”
“...keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication.”
• Death ≈ Sleep
• Resurrection ➔ Paradise = Reward
Official site of Jehovah’s Witnesses
http://www.jw.org

Geisinger Medical Center Blood Conservation Program
www.geisinger.org/services/blood_cons
Final Thoughts...
References


References (cont’d)