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## PREANESTHETIC ASSESSMENT: STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF PREOPERATIVE APPROACH ON PATIENT SATISFACTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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## ABSTRACT

Anesthesiology provides absence or relief from pain and other sensations to patients who need to under go medical procedure and who have been expanding their field of action not only intraoperatively, but alsopre- and post operatively. Recently, the pre-anesthetic office was implemented as a mandatory item for surgeries to be performed, however during the COVID-19 pandemic, such meetings were difficult or needed to beheldonline. The present research evaluated the degree of satisfaction with the anesthesia officeof a sample of the population under going a surgical procedure, verifying the importance of the anesthe siologist and the trust of the community after contact with this professional regarding the clarification of doubts and there duction of anxiety symptoms. Pre-anesthetic evaluation has been shown to reduce anxiety and doubts about the anesthetic procedure and this prior contact with the specialist was considered relevant by the patients.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Anesthesiology is the specialty that studies and provides the absence or relief of pain<sup>6</sup> and of her sensations to patients who need to under go medical procedures andwho have been expanding their area of expertise everyday, from the pre to the post operative period, providing out patient care for pre-anesthetice valuation and assuming a fundamental post-surgical role in patient follow-up, including in intensivecare units<sup>10</sup>. Although the specialty has existed for many years, thevastmajority of the population is unaware of the need to go to their office when they know that they will be undergoing a surgical procedure9, in addition to being unaware of the work of the anesthesiologist. Recently, thepre-anesthesia office was implemented as a mandatory item for surgeries to be performed, however, with the emergence of the COVID-19 sanitarycrisis showed that it could be precious to ensurecontinuity of care in conditions of crisis<sup>4,10</sup>. Teleheal this developing in anaesthesia in the whole perioperative period and began to embroider a population with high levels of anxiety<sup>3,10</sup>. Based on this, the present study evaluated the change in the opinion of this population after contact and clarification by ananes the siologist and verified whether this impact was positive or negative for them.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

A question naire was made available to patients after the pre-anestheti C consultation through the online platform Google Forms (Appendix I) inquiring about their degree of satisfaction, whether the assessment is considered necessary, whether there was any guidance that they didnot know about, among others. The total ofour sample was 41 people, due to the pandemic and all of them signed the Informed Consent Form. The inclusion criterion was age between 30 and 70 years, regardless of gender and ethnicity, with or without comorbidities, literate and with communication skills as well as lucidity and who has been evaluated by an anesthesiologist in the preoperative period. The research was submitted and approved bythe Research Ethics Committee of Hospital Unimed Vitória. The data obtained were analyzed by our research team and Google Forms statistical analysis was used.

### RESULTS

We obtained a sample of 41 participants so far, and ofthe total sample, 57.9 % participants were unaware of the meaning of the preanesthetic evaluation, while 39.5 % claimed to know and 10.4 % perhaps. 86.8% reported having received pre-anesthetic guidance (clarification of doubts, explanation of the procedure, time offasting, medications uspension) and 13.2 % didnot, 10.4 % did not want to giveanopinion. Of the participants, 76.3 % received pre-anesthetic guidance from the anesthesiologist, 23.7 % received guidance from other specialists. The data show that 84.2% did not have comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension or heart disease, while 15.8 % did. As for previoussurgery, 55.3% of participantshadal ready under gonesurgeries with pre-anesthetic evaluation and 44.7 % did not have access to the consultation. Importantly, 78.9 % knewthe role of ananesthesiologist, but 21.1 % is still unaware of it. 94.7 % considered the preoperative contact with theanesthesiologist important, but 5.3 % didnotagree. Interestingly, 18.4 % reported anxiety symptoms before surgery (nausea, tachycardia, diarrhea.) and after contact with the anesthesiologist, these symptoms decreased in 71.5 % of patients who under went pre-anesthetic consultation., 78.9 % had no complicationsaftersurgery (nausea, vomiting, posttraumatic stress, irritability) while 21.1 % hadthem.

# DISCUSSION

Patients under going invasive and/or surgical procedures have a high prevalence of anxiety and depression<sup>8</sup>. When identifying patients with high levels of anxiety or depression, we must consider the use of adequate and continuouspsychological support in thepreandpostoperativeperiod, making it possible to prevent the development of other psychologicaldis orders that require differentiated pharmacological intervention. Both the level and the prevalence of anxiety were significantly reduced, comparing the groups that attended the pre-anesthetic consultation with those that did not. Among the many established advantages of pre-anesthetic evaluation are the decrease in morbidity and the increase in the quality of the anesthetic-surgical procedure<sup>1,2</sup>. When performed before the surgery, the pre-anesthetic evaluational so promotes a reduction in the cancellation of surgeries<sup>5</sup> and the costsarising from complementary exams and specialized consultations requested in the preoperative period<sup>7</sup>.

### CONCLUSIONS

Pre-anesthetic evaluation reduced anxiety levels and any doubts about the surgical procedure of patients in this study. We emphasize the importance of the patient's prior contact with the anesthesiologist, although the pre-anesthetic consultation is not so publicized and performed, and it can be seen from the results that 57.9% of the participants were unaware of the meaning of the pre-anesthetic evaluation. A large portion still receives exclusive guidance from the surgeon or other specialist. Most of the procedures were performed in a private service and when the consultation was carried out, this prior contact with the anesthesiologist was considered important by 94.7% of the patients.

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#### **APPENDIX I - QUESTIONNAIRE**

1) Did you receive preoperative guidance? (RELATED THE DOUBTS, explained the procedure..)

- ( ) Yea
- ( ) No

2) If yes, did you receive preoperative guidance from which doctor?( ) Surgeon

- () Anesthesiologist
- 3) Do you have any illnesses? (diabetes, hypertension, heartdisease.)
- () Yea
- ( ) No

4) Did the anesthesiologist guide you about the surgery and its comorbidity?

- () Yea
- ( ) No

5) Which hospital did you perform the surgery in?

- () Public
- () Private

6) Do you know what ananesthesiologistis?

- () Yea
- ( ) No
- 7) What is the role of the anesthesiologist?
- () perform the surgery
- () Close the surgery and follow the post-operative period
- () takes care of surgical risk, monitors vital signs during surgery and
- control of pain and post-operation complications
- () I can't give my opinion

8) Did you consider the preoperative contact with the anesthesiologist pertinent?

- () Yea
- ( ) No

<ul> <li>9) After the preoperative anesthetic consultation, did you feelsafer to perform the surgery?</li> <li>( ) Yea</li> <li>( ) No</li> </ul>	<ul><li>11) Did these anxiety symptoms reduce after contact with the anesthesiologist?</li><li>( ) Yea</li><li>( ) No</li></ul>
<ul><li>10) Did you have anxiety symptoms before surgery? (Nausea, tachycardia, diarrhea.)</li><li>( ) Yea</li><li>( ) No</li></ul>	<ul> <li>12) Did you have any complications after surgery? (nausea, insomnia, post-traumatic stress)</li> <li>( ) Yea</li> <li>( ) No</li> </ul>
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