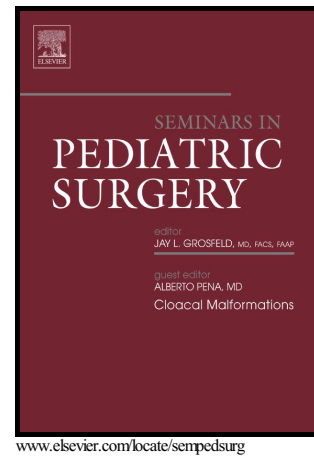


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Preoperative anesthesia evaluation

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Abstract

The preoperative evaluation is the first step in ensuring the safe conduct of anesthetic care in pediatric patients of all ages. Over time, this process has changed significantly from a time when patients were admitted to the hospital the night before surgery to a time when the majority of patients, including those scheduled for major surgical procedures, arrive the day of surgery. For most patients, the preoperative examination can be conducted over the phone by a trained nurse or on-line via a survey thereby eliminating the need for a separate visit merely for the preoperative evaluation. Regardless of where or how it occurs, the goals of the preoperative evaluation are to gain information regarding the patient's current status, comorbid conditions, and the intended procedure. This process allows the identification of patients who require additional preoperative testing or those patients who need to be seen by an anesthesiologist prior to the day of surgery. During the preoperative evaluation, decisions are

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