

Hypothermia Why the Fuss?

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Abstract.

Perioperative temperature management is a simple and effective intervention to improve postoperative outcomes. Perioperative hypothermia is associated with serious complications such as postoperative wound infections, increased blood loss and transfusion requirement and many others. Many warming devices are currently available for maintenance of perioperative normothermia and in many hospitals active warming has become clinical standard. Forced air warming has been proven a simple and effective method of warming patients in the perioperative period. Even though clinical and basic research have significantly improved patient outcome in the past 15 years, major procedures still carry significant morbidity and mortality risks with high socio-economic impact. I will concentrate on interventions such as temperature management, as well as evidences of actively prewarming surgical patients to prevent inadvertent hypothermia and leading to appropriate use of resources.

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