FAMILY PRACTICE ANESTHESIA: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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OVERVIEW

• ANESTHESIA SHORTAGES IN CANADA & ROLE OF THE FPA
• FPA PROGRAMS IN CANADA
• FPA EDUCATION
• FUTURE DIRECTIONS
SHORTAGES IN ANESTHESIA SERVICES & FAMILY PRACTICE ANESTHETISTS

How family practice anesthetists could help Nova Scotia’s health system

Health minister awaits results of meetings with officials, says idea worth exploring

Anesthesiologist shortage leading to cancellations

There are increasing calls in the province to use family practice anesthetists (FPAs) to address specialist anesthesiologist shortages. (CBC)
IMPACT OF SHORTAGES ON CANADIANS

• 6 million Canadians live in rural communities
• Increasing shortages in anesthesia care services\(^1\) leads to:
  • Urbanization of low-risk maternity care
  • Movement of surgical services to regional centres
  • Temporary disruption of surgical and obstetrical services
• Impact of shortages\(^2\)
  • Barriers to timely, safe and accessible healthcare delivery
  • Poorer health outcomes for rural populations
  • Financial burdens and emotional distress for patients forced to travel to seek healthcare

1. ANGLE CAN J ANESTH 2009
2. ORSER ET AL. ANES-ANAL 2019
ACCREDITED FPA PROGRAMS IN CANADA

10 Family Medicine Anesthesia Programs

- University of British Columbia
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Manitoba
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- McMaster University
- University of Toronto
- Queen's University
- University of Ottawa
OVERVIEW OF FPA PROGRAMS

• 1 YEAR ENHANCED SKILLS PROGRAM

• CATEGORY 1 PROGRAM

• COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA CONFERS A CERTIFICATE OF ADDED COMPETENCY (CAC)

• REQUIRED COMPETENCE MAINTENANCE EVERY 5 YEARS
  • COMPLETION OF 75 HOURS OF ACCREDITED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOCUSED ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OBJECTIVES OF FPA PROGRAMS

- Train new and practising family physicians
  - 14% of family physicians practice in rural communities\(^1\)
  - 3.5% of family physicians include anesthesia in their scope of practice\(^2\)
- Provide anesthesia care for low-risk patients undergoing mostly uncomplicated surgical procedures in small community hospitals
- Practice in underserviced communities

1. BOSCO CFPC BACKGROUND PAPER 2016
2. CIHI PHYSICIANS IN CANADA 2016; CMA 2017
FP-ANESTHESIA @ U OF T – 40 YEARS STRONG
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

52 weeks of clinical training
- Adult Anesthesia
- Obstetrical Anesthesia
- Pediatric Anesthesia
- ICU
- Community Rotation

Additional Curriculum
- Bootcamp
- Academic Half Day Back; Morning Didactic Lectures
- Simulator Sessions
- Final Oral Exam
CURRENT STATUS OF PROGRAMS

- Each program graduates 1-2 FPAs
- Graduates often combine Anesthesia, Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine
- In 2005 39% of Ontario’s 128 hospitals that provide anesthesia services employed FPAs & 59% had at least 1 FPA providing anesthesia care services

1. BROWN CAN FAM PHYSICIAN 2005
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

• Retention and Support of Existing and Future FPAs
• Collaborative Relationships
• Move towards CBME
• Promote FPAs as one viable solution to current anesthesia shortages in Canada