Background: Cigarette smoking & exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) are major public health issues for children as well as increased risk for peripartum complications. Traditionally, anesthesiologists have limited involvement in tobacco control.

Objective: To develop and disseminate an educational curriculum that educates fellows in pediatric anesthesiology in tobacco control.

Methods: After institutional review board (IRB) approval, an online survey was disseminated to all pediatric anesthesiology fellowship directors (n=46) via email.

Results: Thirty-one surveys were completed (67% response rate). Most respondents report that they or a member of their staff ask the pediatric patients about tobacco use. A majority advise their patients who smoke about the health effects of smoking, but only 40% advise these children to quit, and the majority never provide them with educational materials to assist in smoking cessation. Half reported that sometimes or always ask about SHS exposure in their patients. Approximately one third never advise about the ill effects of SHS, nearly half never advise patients to stop smoking and the majority never provide educational material about quitting to patients. Two-thirds felt that it is their responsibility to advise their pediatric patients not to smoke, but less than half felt the same sense of responsibility about advising parents not to smoke.

Regarding fellowship training education, approximately two-thirds believe that fellowship programs should provide formal education about the effects of smoking in the peripartum period in pediatric patients and the effects of SHS exposure, but few programs currently provide such a curriculum. Almost all would implement a free, web-based educational module about SHS exposure and tobacco control as part of fellowship education.

Conclusions: Many pediatric anesthesiology fellowship directors agree that exposure to cigarette smoke adversely impacts patients in the peripartum period, but few participate in tobacco control activities, and issues germane to tobacco control are not consistently addressed. Fellowship directors expressed considerable interest in the development and implementation of such a curriculum.

Beliefs, Attitudes and Perceptions of Cigarette Exposure and Related Perioperative Complications by Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship Directors

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Abstract

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Conclusions: Many pediatric anesthesiology fellowship directors agree that exposure to cigarette smoke adversely impacts patients in the peripartum period, but few participate in tobacco control activities, and issues germane to tobacco control are not consistently addressed. Fellowship directors expressed considerable interest in the development and implementation of such a curriculum, and we are actively engaged in creating such a curriculum for implementation in the near future.

Summary of Results

• Most fellowship directors or their staff ask about tobacco use but less than half advise their pediatric patients who smoke to quit, and few provide any education assistance.

• The majority of fellowship directors believe that there is an increased risk in those children who smoke or who are exposed to SHS and think that reducing SHS will decrease complications.

• Few fellowship directors or their staff advise about the ill-effects of SHS exposure, free encourage caregivers to stop smoking, and almost none provide any cessation assistance.

• High majority felt formal curriculum on the adverse consequences of smoking and SHS exposure is important but few programs currently have such a curriculum.

• Nearly all of the respondents would implement a free, web-based educational module about SHS exposure and tobacco control as a part of fellowship education.

References

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