# **SUMMARY of POST- ANESTHETIC CARE (PAC)**.

Maintenance of anesthesia, emergence, and postoperative care are parts of the continuous peri-operative care of a patient.

- During pt transfer to PACU : maintain stability (ABC) and monitoring including oxymeter ,and O2 supply
- at arrival to PACU(well equipped unit):
  - ✓ check (&record) stability (ABC / vital signs ) and keep

    Pt warm
  - ✓ Be alert for immediate post-op complications: pain, PONV, temperature instability, Upper airway obstruction, post-extubation croup, blunt the respiratory drive, cardiac arrests ,Dysrhythmias! , hypotension! and postobstructive pulmonary edema (POPE).
  - ✓ anesthesiologist must give appropriate handover to competent PACU staff . write post-op note and decide when to discharge from PACU and to where
  - ✓ discharge from PACU to hospital ward( if steadily stable . )
  - ✓ discharge from PACU to PICU (if unstable or with potential risk of instability)
- ❖ at arrival to PICU:
  - ✓ check stability (ABC including vital signs ) & keep Pt.

    warm
  - ✓ Be alert for immediate post-op complications (see above)
  - ✓ recored all the above mentioned and also the description of arrival state (consciousness, ETI, O2 supply, ....)

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## Management of immediate post-op complications in PACU & PICU

"anticipation and prevention are worthwhile - when applicable "

#### **❖** Post-op pain:

- √ regular acetaminophen or NSAID (PO or PR) and
- √ if needed opiate(morphine or fentanyl)

#### **♦ Post operative nausea and vomiting (PONV)**

- ✓ **prophylaxis**, IV serotonin (5-HT3) receptor antagonist, such as ondansetron (0.1 to 0.15 mg/kg) and granisetron (0.04 mg/kg) or a small dose of dexamethasone (0.2 to 0.5 mg/kg), with or without ondansetron, is also effective.
- ✓ For those patients for whom previous drugs fails, **treat** with antiemetic drugs that work via other mechanisms like diphenhydramine (0.5 mg/kg), or perphenazine (70 mcg/kg).

#### Agitation (emergence delirium):

✓ small dose analgesia e.g. fentanyl or sedative e.g. midazolam

#### **❖ Post-intubation Croup**:

- ✓ correct the neck position, clear airway , humidified warm mist
- ✓ according the severity :adrenaline nebulizer and steroid may added
- post-obstructive pulmonary edema (POPE) :
  - √ O2 supply and semi-sitting position
  - ✓ single dose diuretic (e.g. furosemide), and restriction of IVF
  - ✓ CPAP may be needed and rarely MV with moderate PEEP

(with sedation and morphine)

#### **Urinary retention**:

- ✓ early ambulation , and gentle compression of lower abdomen
- √ rarely may need catheterization
- ❖ **Apnea** (including apnea of Prematurity) :

- ✓ check & treat the reversible **cause** : hypoglycemia, ....
- ✓ support breathing (non-invasive or invasive )

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