Curricular Components That Support the Functions of EPA 7: Recognize, Provide Initial Management, and Refer Patients Presenting with Surgical Problems

1. Recognizing conditions where surgery is primarily indicated or is needed in conjunction with medical management
   - Recognizes acuity of presenting or developing problem to establish if surgical referral and intervention is elective or urgent
   - Prioritizes timing of surgical consult appropriately reflecting urgency of issue
   - Identifies need for consultation and the appropriate endpoints for successful medical management vs. need for surgical intervention
   - Monitors clinical exam to evaluate if medical management is no longer adequate
   - Obtains appropriate laboratory and imaging studies to monitor progression of illness
   - Discusses ongoing risks and benefits of continuing medical management vs. surgical intervention with surgical consultants, patient, and family

2. Providing initial management and/or stabilization
   - Recognizes the patient who is severely ill and assess resources and expertise available to provide initial management
   - Initiates the call for additional resources as needed, for example calling an ambulance in an office practice
   - Stabilizes patient medically based on available resources, for example with antibiotics and blood products or fluids
   - Obtains appropriate imaging and laboratory studies for diagnostic clarity and pre-operative preparation

3. Making a referral and communicating directly to the pediatric or subspecialty surgeon
   - Delivers patient information to the surgical consultant in an effective and efficient fashion, allowing open communication by the receiver
   - Organizes presentation appropriately and delivers it succinctly
   - Utilizes appropriate mode of communication
   - Recognizes that handoff between settings is a professional responsibility

4. Assisting with pre- and post-operative medical care of the child (such as nutritional support, pain management, and medication dosing for the pediatric patient)
   - Recognizes impact of underlying chronic medical problems — e.g., asthma on the anesthetic and operative plan and determines medical clearance
   - Assists family with needs in the pre-operative period, ensuring that they understand basics of the procedure, risks, benefits and alternatives, medical clearance, typical recovery time needed, and restrictions (e.g., dietary, activity, etc. in the peri-operative period and beyond
- Manages transition to post-operative period, assisting in planning of discharge needs and answering questions
- Manages other chronic conditions that may impact the surgical and anesthetic plan and provides consultation to the surgical team as needed
- Assists surgeon as requested in preparing the patient for surgery with respect to laboratory studies, NPO status, and other pre-operative considerations around a more elective intervention
- Assists surgeon as requested with post-operative issues such as pain control, nausea, fluid management, and nutrition

5. Provide continuity of care that ensures mutual understanding of the diagnosis, management and follow up needed
   - Facilitates family centered communication with consulting team
   - Coordinates plans of care between medical and surgical team, particularly with respect to discharge and follow up, including a written care plan and shared decision making throughout the process

Curricular Components Authors

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