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Breast Conservation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Global Trends in Breast Cancer Care

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Mentor: Jessica Maxwell

Program: General Surgery Residency

Type: Systematic Review

Background: The safety and efficacy of breast conserving therapy has been well established and has become mainstay treatment for appropriate invasive and in situ breast cancer. This review is to determine the utilization of BCT in LMIC globally, and to assess factors contributing to surgical choice and use of adjuvant RT in BCS candidates.

Methods: Systematic review of breast conserving surgery in low- and middle-income countries was performed using Cochrane Library, EMBASE, and MEDLINE. After removing duplicates, 3,208 papers remained, with only 165 studies meeting inclusion criteria.

Results: The majority of high yield research into BCT came from China, India, Brazil, Turkey, and Egypt, with China having the most relevant papers (38). Given greater access to resources, these middle-income countries had treatment options similar to higher income countries. On the other end of the spectrum, lower income countries such

as Yemen, Zambia, and Nigeria are largely unable to perform BCT either due to lack of resources or greater presentation of late-stage disease.

Conclusions: Within the Low- and Middle-Income country paradigm, middle income countries are able to offer breast conservation surgery at higher levels compared to low-income countries. Difference in utilization of BCT is largely due to disparities in resource availability in middle income countries versus lower income countries. ■

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Anesthetic Considerations for Non-Cardiac Surgery in an Adult Patient with Right Atrial Isomerism

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Mentor: Rebecca Aron

Program: Department of Anesthesiology

Type: Case Report

Background: HS has an estimated incidence of 1 in 6000 to 1 in 20000 live births. Right atrial isomerism involves failure of the embryo to develop a normal left right asymmetry and presents as complex cardiac and extracardiac abnormalities. It results in bilateral right atria with an absence of left-sided structures. Presence of intracardiac shunts makes the use of IV air filters to decrease air embolism important. In this patient, a right sided arterial line was selected given a left sided BT shunt. BT

shunt flow was optimized by maintaining euvolemia and preventing increases in pulmonary vascular resistance (e.g., avoiding hypoxia, hypercarbia and sympathetic stimulation). General anesthesia was chosen to better control oxygenation and ventilation. Excessive PEEP and low airway pressures were ensured. Given obligate mixing, baseline oxygen saturations in the 70s were maintained. Given asplenia, antibiotic prophylaxis was given and strict sterile conditions during procedures were ensured. Stress steroids were given for panhypopituitarism. Aspirin was continued given the thrombosis risk associated with erythrocytosis.

Case: To discuss anesthetic considerations

in a 39 y/M with Heterotaxy Syndrome (HS), right atrial isomerism, pulmonic, Blalock Taussig (BT) shunt, asplenia, congenital panhypopituitarism, chronic cyanosis with clubbing and secondary erythrocytosis, with refractory hemorrhoids who presented for surgical hemorrhoidectomy. Baseline arterial oxygen saturations were in mid 70s and hemoglobin was 23.1 mg/dl.

Conclusion: Anesthetic management in patients with HS requires understanding of the cardiovascular anatomy to determine hemodynamic goals, limb selection for line placement and optimal treatment. ■

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This Is Why You Take Your Vitamins

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Program: Family Medicine

Type: Case Report

Background: This case report demonstrates the importance of long-term follow up and potential morbidity associated with vitamin

non-compliance in the setting of bariatric surgery.

Case: A 49-year-old male presented to clinic with right knee pain that began suddenly 1 week prior, possibly after tripping on uneven concrete. He endorsed knee swelling, weakness, sensation of instability, and pain with prolonged standing or walking. He noted

minimal improvement after icing/NSAIDs. He denied previous knee injuries. PSH was notable for gastric sleeve procedure 7 years prior. He reported being non-compliant with his post-procedure vitamin recommendations and had not been seen for follow-up regularly. On exam, tenderness to palpation along both medial and lateral joint lines and over the