Adverse Events With Outpatient Anesthesia in Massachusetts

Paul G. Sims, DDS
Private Practice, Butte, Montana; e-mail: pg sims@in-tch.com

I commend the authors for their third consecutive study in which a 100% response rate was achieved. This retrospective survey of the members of the Massachusetts Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons assessed morbidity and mortality data for 5 years.

The mortality rate for the 5-year period from 1995 through 1999, for patients undergoing conscious sedation or general anesthesia in Massachusetts was 1:853,050. This mortality rate compared favorably with 7 retrospective studies published since 1980, in which the mortality rate for dental anesthesia collectively was 1:853,000. There were 4 studies published from 1966 through 1979 that, when added together, gave a mortality rate of 1:335,000. The authors of this study conclude the improvement in mortality rates compared favorably with 7 retrospective studies and surveys. Among the problems mentioned were defects in the data recall. The AAOMS is currently collecting data for a prospective outcomes assessment of anesthesia in the oral and maxillofacial offices. When this study is released, it will be interesting to compare these data with other published studies.

I urge the authors and the Massachusetts Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons to continue their periodic review of office-based anesthesia and report their findings.

References


© 2003 American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
doi:10.1016/S0278-2391(03)00264-7