

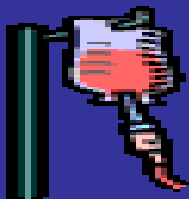


NetCAP E-Newsletter

<< Jul-Sept 2007 >>

Fall Edition

“Network – A group engaged as a supportive system of sharing information and services.”

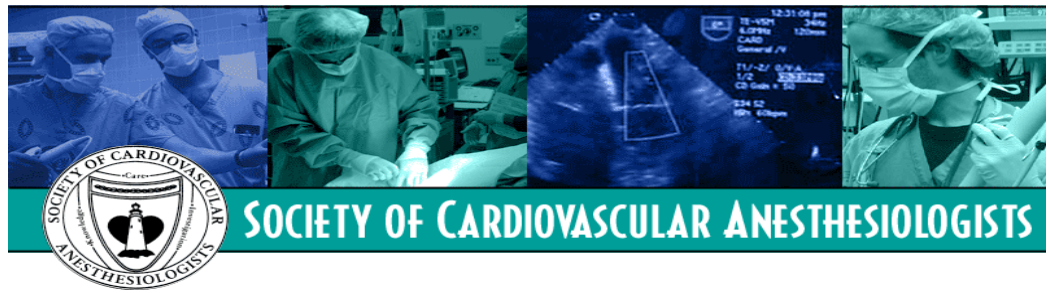


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The FOCUS Initiative

OPPORTUNITIES • INFORMATION • EVENTS • ABOUT SCA • MEMBERS



The Foundation for the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists has launched a new initiative called “FOCUS.” Short for “Flawless Operative Cardiovascular Unified Systems,” the SCA wants to study the process of communication that occurs in the OR between the various members of the cardiac team. The following is from their website; <http://www.scahq.org>.

Medical errors lead to approximately 50,000-100,000 deaths per year in the United States. The FOCUS initiative is a “*complementary and cooperative effort designed to raise the bar for patient safety through human factors engineering.*” Human factors engineering is the study and redesign of environments and processes to ensure safer, more effective, and more efficient use by humans.

The SCA also wants to perform “Systems Analysis” — the study of the organization, interactions and interdependencies of people, information, resources, equipment, and procedures as they work toward a common goal. They plan to conduct the “Focus” at 3 institutions, and then compile a report that will educate physicians and implement the “Focus” OR Guidelines.

THE FOCUS INITIATIVE

Using wisdom gleaned from the airline industry, the SCA see parallels between the protocols used in the cockpit and the OR. Peter F. Drucker, a well-known noted management consultant, says that large healthcare institutions may be the *most complex organizations in human history*. At the core of such institutions, the cardiac OR is a hive of high-tech electronic equipment staffed by exacting professionals. These teams must work smoothly together to ensure positive outcomes.

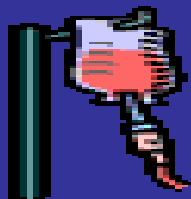
There are currently no universal protocols that weave specialized surgical teams into an integrated whole. Cardiac anesthesiologists have an opportunity to “pilot” these teams and weave their collective efforts into precise, consistent results.

NetCAP

• *Network of Cardiac Anesthesia Professionals*

• *An e-information network for professionals involved in cardiac anesthesia*

• *NetCAP is sponsored by NCAC, PA*



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The Hemobag®

The Hemobag® is a relatively straightforward bag-filter-tubing ensemble that has been on the market for several years. Invented and patented by a perfusionist, Keith Samolyk, the Hemobag® is enjoyed increased popularity in the OR, as study after study have demonstrated that it is associated with improved outcome, at least from a blood conservation standpoint.

The Hemobag® is typically used after cardiopulmonary bypass, but may also be used for ECMO, VADS, liver transplantation/bypass, isolated limb perfusion and heparinized cardiotomy reservoirs.

The HEMOBAG®

Autologous Whole Blood Salvaging Device for Surgery

The device is essentially an ultrafilter – blood is gradually pumped through a filter into a bag, as opposed to being ejected into the cell-saver. Ultrafiltration is a process of removing non-cellular water and low molecular weight solutes including cytokines, anaphylatoxins and platelet inhibitors from anticoagulated blood.

Ultrafiltration maintains all the formed elements of whole blood such as red and white blood cells, platelets, clotting factors, plasma proteins, antibodies, albumin, vitamins, minerals, and most drugs or medications, all of which contribute to the stability, hemostasis and overall homeostasis of the surgical patient. This is in contrast to cell-savers which essentially remove coagulation factors and platelets, while concentrating the RBCs. More information about this device can be obtained on the company website, <http://www.hemobag.com/index.html>, including a plethora of well-designed studies.

Ultrafiltration can be applied to anticoagulated blood that is either in the native circulation or in extracorporeal circuits, or blood that is collected and held in reservoirs for salvaging and eventual return to the patient, providing concentrated hyperoncotic autologous whole blood in a timely fashion.

The Hemobag® is ostensibly cheaper than traditional autotransfusion devices and disposables (an interesting cost-analysis program is on their website). Furthermore, no extra personnel are needed – the device is quite simple to setup and use. Although Global Blood Resources, LLC currently market the device, I envisage that the Hemobag® may well be incorporated or integrated with other proprietary technologies such as the CardioPAT®.

And ...



This Newsletter contains information, views and judgments expressed exclusively by Paul G. Loubser, M.D. Judgments are subjective in nature.

Every effort will be made to be conscientious about accurate and reliable reporting. Feedback is welcome on any subject.