

Perioperative Management of Pediatric Surgical Patients with Diabetes Mellitus

Rhodes ET, Ferrari LT, Wolfsdorf JL. *Anesth Analg* 2005; 101:986 - 999.

The article by Dr. Rhodes and colleagues in a recent issue of *Anesthesia and Analgesia* is one that should have broad appeal not only to pediatric anesthesiologists but to our more general anesthesia colleagues as well. As stated by the authors, despite many recent changes in the care of diabetic patients, there has not been a large amount of literature written about the care of pediatric, diabetic patients within the perioperative period. Unfortunately, an increasing number of children with type 1 and 2 diabetes are coming for surgical procedures and due to vast differences in body size and developmental/metabolic changes, these patients are not just "small adults". The authors do a nice job of describing and presenting algorithms used at the Children's Hospital of Boston for taking care of diabetic patients coming for anesthesia and surgery. In a very clear, stepwise approach, the authors show the decision trees developed at the Children's Hospital of Boston for the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care of pediatric diabetics, both type 1 and 2, for minor, major and emergency surgery. In addition to describing management, the article also reviews some of the new insulin formulations, their bioavailability, and management practices using these new insulin types.

For pediatric anesthesiologists who have not reviewed the topic in some time, for departments who wish a starting point in developing standards of care, or for general anesthesiologists who will be presented with an older, pediatric patient with diabetes, just in for "minor surgery", this is a nice reference to keep. With the ever increasing average body mass index of the US population, including our children, it is unfortunately necessary but timely to have an article reviewing the management of these patients in the perioperative period.

Reviewed by Michael Jon Williams, MD