General anesthesia is meant for the patient who requires a controlled, reversible state of unconsciousness for surgical purposes. Significant advances in monitoring, safety systems, and the pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic profiles of anesthetic agents have contributed to improvements in the safety and effectiveness of general anesthesia. Even with these advances, safe and effective anesthetic practice would not be possible without highly educated and well trained healthcare professionals.

The pharmacodynamic profile of short-acting opioids used in general anesthesia regimens make them versatile, manageable, and, if used appropriately, safe. Because these agents may play a critical role in ensuring successful patient outcomes, it is important that clinicians involved in procedures requiring general anesthesia are aware of the properties of available agents commonly used. With this knowledge, it may be possible to prepare for intraoperative patient responses that require real-time adjustments and to optimize recovery time.

This program will review important considerations for general anesthesia and opportunities for improving perioperative patient management in a case-based format, specifically in the context of opioid-based anesthesia. In order to improve clinical decision making, the effects of particular compounds used as adjuncts to general anesthesia will be reviewed.
Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this educational activity, participants should be able to:

- Delineate the pharmacokinetic profiles of short-acting opioids for general anesthesia
- Identify practices which can diminish the risk for dosing and administration errors associated with general anesthesia
- Describe the need to be able to adjust short-acting opioids according to intraoperative patient responses to surgical manipulation
- Evaluate the impact that opioid-based anesthesia regimens have on recovery times

Target Audience

This activity has been designed for anesthesiologists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and other healthcare providers involved in the administration of general anesthesia.

Accreditation

Integrity Continuing Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation

Integrity Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Contact Information

For questions about the accreditation of this activity, please contact Integrity Continuing Education at (888) 255-1009.

Disclaimer

The information provided at this CME activity is for continuing education purposes only and is not meant to substitute for the independent medical judgment of a physician relative to diagnostic and treatment options of a specific patient’s medical condition.