

PERIOPERATIVE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE ELDERLY

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Perioperative assessment in the elderly is important since they present challenging medical situations. The assessment involves identifying coexisting disease, defining the urgency of the intervention, and anticipating postoperative complications based on the type of the surgery. The role of the physicians is searching for correctable conditions, and avoiding complication during or after the operation. Bahrain Med Bull 1995;17(4):

The geriatric patient present the physician with several challenges in the operative and postoperative period due to several interacting factors including, prevalence of co-existing morbidity, age-related decline in physiologic parameters, the wide spectrum of surgery which these patients undergo, increased morbidity and mortality associated with surgery in the aged, and historical bias against surgical intervention. The associated diseases and urgency of the procedure have been more important factors than age in predicting mortality. Despite this, a fatality rate of 0.7 % within 48 hours of elective surgery is expected in those older than 90 years (Table 1)^{1,2}.