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Epigenetic Mechanisms of Postoperative Cognitive Impairment Induced by Anesthesia and Neuroinflammation

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Message from the Guest Editor

The aim of this Special Issue is to gain a deeper view into the molecular mechanisms of cognitive impairment after surgery, which is a common problem that mainly affects the elderly and can be divided into postoperative delirium and postoperative cognitive dysfunction. Both phenomena are accompanied by neuroinflammation; however, the precise molecular mechanisms underlying cognitive impairment after anesthesia are not yet fully understood. Anesthetics can have a longer-term impact on protein transcription; thus, epigenetic alterations are a possible mechanism. Epigenetic mechanisms may be responsible for long-lasting effects and may implicate novel therapeutic approaches. As neuroinflammation is generally increased, studies could focus on inflammatory genes (e.g., TNF-alpha, IL-6, or IL1 beta) and genes that are responsible for neuronal development (such as brain-derived neurotrophic factor) could be examined. In addition, studies that focus on the development of novel therapeutic approaches are highly desired.







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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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