



Perioperative Neurocognitive Disorders

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Message from the Guest Editors

Perioperative neurocognitive disorders (PND), encompassing acute postoperative delirium (occurring up to 7 days after surgery), delayed neurocognitive recovery (cognitive decline diagnosed up to 30 days after surgery) and postoperative cognitive decline (POCD, cognitive decline diagnosed up to 12 months thereafter), are the main health concerns for elderly patients scheduled for anesthesia and surgery. The resulting cognitive decline not only has a detrimental impact on patients' quality of life, puts them at risk of developing dementia and can even cause death but also imposes a substantial socioeconomic burden on the society. The pathophysiology of PND is multifaceted. Clinical and laboratory evidence suggests that stress, inflammation and pre-existing neurocognitive disorders are essential contributing factors to PND. More studies are required to identify potential therapeutic targets and prevention strategies to improve the outcome of surgery.

Topics will include:

- The epidemiology of perioperative neurocognitive disorders (including delirium and POCD);
- The mechanisms for PND;
- Biomarkers for PND;
- Interventions for PND.





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