STSA Debate

Pro:

All Cardiothoracic Surgery Patients Should be Cared for by a Critical Care Physician

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(FACTS-Care)
Disclosures

- No disclosures relevant to this presentation.

- Opinions are my own, based on 20 + years of practicing CVT surgery and critical care and my interpretation of the literature.
Perspective

Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeon
- Georgetown University 20 years

Cardiothoracic Surgical Critical Care
- George Washington University Medical Center
- Johns Hopkins University

Development and Direction of the Conferences
- *Cardiovascular-Thoracic (CVT) Critical Care* 2009, 2010

Creation & Development of Non-Profit Educational Foundation:
Foundation for the Advancement of CTS Care (FACTS-Care)
Reformulation

- Not all Patients Undergoing CT Surgery Require Critical Care
  - Some patients who undergo straight-forward procedures and are otherwise healthy, may not require critical care if they are stable postop and do not have multi-organ system dysfunction.

- Therefore, the Debate should be:
  Should all CTS Patients who require Critical Care be cared for by a Critical Care Physician?
Pro:
All CTS Patients who require Critical Care should be cared for by a Critical Care Physician
The Critical Care of CTS Patients has Evolved into a Specialty

As a Result of Its Challenges
CVT Critical Care: 4 Major Challenges

1. Trend is Increased Acuity
   Aging Population

2. New Technologies
   Minimally Invasive
   Maximally Supportive

3. New Pharmaceuticals
   New Applications & Combinations

4. Coordination of the Care Team
   Communication
   Patient Safety
CTS Critical Care
An Emerging Specialty

- Unique Body of Knowledge
- Unique Therapeutic Modalities and Procedures
- Unique Complications and Associated Treatments
- Team of Professionals Dedicated to the Care of the Patients
Multi-Disciplinary Team Dedicated to the Critical Care of CTS Patients

- CT Surgeons
- Interventionalists
- Intensivists / Anesthesiologists
- Critical Care Nurses & Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Perfusionists
- Pharmacists
- Respiratory Therapists
Pro:
All CTS Patients who require Critical Care should be cared for by a Critical Care Physician

Who Should that Critical Care Care Physician Be?
Multi-Disciplinary Team Dedicated to the Critical Care of CTS Patients

- CT Surgeons
- Interventionalists
- Intensivists / Anesthesiologists
- Critical Care Nurses & Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Perfusionists
- Pharmacists
- Respiratory Therapists
Dr. John W. Kirklin
Dr. John W. Kirklin

- Pioneer and Innovator in Cardiac Surgery
- Mentor for Cardiac Surgeons Around the World
- Unique Perspective
- **Cardiac Surgery**
  “Morphology, Diagnostic Criteria, Natural History, Techniques, Results, and Indications”
  by
  John W. Kirklin, MD &
  Brian G. Barratt-Boyes, KBE, MB, ChM
CARDIAC SURGERY
MORPHOLOGY, DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA,
NATURAL HISTORY, TECHNIQUES,
RESULTS, AND INDICATIONS

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Dr. Eugene Blackstone
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The Importance of Treating Low Cardiac Output in Infants & Small Children

Figure 5-3: The relationship of early postoperative cardiac output (average of all early postoperative values) to the probability of cardiac death in infants and small children. This graph suggests that convalescence cannot be considered normal in infants and small children unless cardiac output is about 2.0–2.2 L min⁻¹ m⁻², somewhat higher than the value for adults. Reproduced with permission from Parat et al. and the American Heart Association, Inc.
The Importance of Treating Low Cardiac Output – MVR 4 hrs Postop
The Importance of Treating Low Cardiac Output – MVR POD 1 4am
Thoracic Surgeons are, in fact, Critical Care Physicians
THORACIC SURGERY ENCOMPASSES THE OPERATIVE, PERIOPERATIVE, AND SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE OF PATIENTS WITH ACQUIRED AND CONGENITAL PATHOLOGIC CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CHEST. INCLUDED ARE ...
The CT Surgeon as Critical Care Physician

- Critical Care is inherent to the specialty of CT surgery.
- CT Surgeons from the beginning of Training take care of many of their patients in ICU’s.
- Surgeons have the best understanding of the procedures performed and the potential complications for a particular patient.
- The Patient “places his/her life in the surgeon’s hands.”
Earlier Model of CT Critical Care

- CT Surgeon directs the Critical Care.

- CT Surgeon, His/Her House Staff, PA’s and Critical Care Nurses perform most of the care.

- Critical Care is learned during Residency and in Clinical Practice
Current Challenges for the CT Surgeon in Directing Critical Care

• Maintaining Expertise in the Complex, Evolving Specialty of CTS Critical Care

• Developing a Multi-Disciplinary Team to Provide the Best Possible CTS Critical Care
  • Limited Resident Availability – 80 Hour Work Week
  • Increasing Complexity of the Field
Maintaining Expertise

- Leadership role on the Multi-Disciplinary CT Critical Care Team

  - Participation in CT Critical Care Decisions

- Updates through
  - Publications
  - CME Educational Events
Development of CT Critical Care as a Specialty from Within CT Surgery

- CVT Critical Care Conferences:

- Creation of a Non-Profit Educational Organization:
  Foundation for the Advancement of CTS Care (FACTS-Care)
AATS / STS Members on Conference Faculties

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Cardiovascular-Thoracic (CVT) Critical Care 2010

Thurs Sept 30 – Sat Oct 2, 2010
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

www.facts-care.org
Cardiovascular-Thoracic (CVT) Critical Care 2011

8th Annual Conference
Thurs Sept 22 – Sat Sept 24, 2011
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

www.facts-care.org
Critical Care at Major Thoracic Surgery Meetings

• STS Annual Meeting 2009 – Ft. Lauderdale
  • Afternoon Session on Critical Care

• AATS Annual Meeting 2009 – Toronto
  • AATS/STS Postgraduate Critical Care Symposium

• STS Annual Meeting 2010 – San Diego
  • Postgraduate CT Critical Care Symposium

• AATS Annual Meeting 2010 – Philadelphia
  • Postgraduate CT Critical Care Symposium
Training of Residents & Fellows in CT Critical Care

- Enhancement of the CT Residency Curriculum
  - Modifications to Ensure Excellent Knowledge and Experience.
- Critical Care Certification by the ABTS
  - CT Critical Care Fellowships
  - Discussions Ongoing.
The Cardiothoracic Surgeon has a Leadership Role on the Multi-Disciplinary Team
Pro:
All CTS Patients who require Critical Care should be cared for by a Critical Care Physician,
who ideally is the Patient’s CT Surgeon or One of His/Her Associates.
This Physician Directs the CTS Critical Care Team