

This quarter's edition of the *Journal* contains a pot-pourri of articles from a number of international ambulatory surgery centres that I hope will be of interest to all. Mark Coppens and colleagues have provided a review of patient controlled sedation, describing in some detail the history of the technique, suitable drugs for use, and suggested protocols to employ. While the method appears potentially time consuming with the patient explanations required, the review provides insight into a different technique for which both patient satisfaction and outcomes are high.

Greenstein and co-workers submit a paper with a similar theme evaluating the safety and effectiveness of sedation of patients undergoing transurethral procedures using midazolam with or without ketamine by the urologist. They found that in a cohort of 77 patients, use of the drugs together with lidocaine gel infiltration, resulted in successful outcomes with low levels of peri-procedural pain.

Eskander and colleagues have written a case report and review of a patient requiring transfer to another hospital for ongoing surgery after complications arose during a gynaecological operation. While the subject matter doesn't strictly embrace ambulatory care, given that there is a prevalence of need to transfer

such patients should complications arise, I hope that the review provides some insight into the equipment, drugs and personnel required, should transfer and admission be required for ongoing care.

In the fourth paper, Mads Moxness provides a personal commentary of his view that Ambulatory Surgery Centres are well suited for clinical research. He cites the reliability of pre-operative assessment and the timeliness of the procedure as an incentive for conducting research in comparison with inpatient facilities, as well as the high volume of similar surgical procedures that are carried out in a centre or department, thereby facilitating the ease with which patients can be recruited.

Finally, a date for your diary: Preparations are underway for the 2nd IAAS European Congress to be held in Budapest, Hungary, between 10th and 12th May, 2018. The website to keep an eye on is <http://www.iaaseuropeancongress2018.com/>, where further details will be published in due course. Book your study leave now.

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