

Thousands wake up during surgery

14th September, 2014



A new report in England states that thousands of patients a year wake up during an operation. The report is from two leading organisations for anaesthetists – people who put us to sleep before surgery. It said: "At least 150, and possibly several thousand, patients a year are conscious while they are undergoing operations." Doctors say it is very rare for someone to wake up during major surgery. One doctor says it happens in one in every 19,000 operations. Patients who do wake up on the operating table reported having feelings of fear and panic. A patient cannot alert the doctors if he/she wakes up because the drugs relax their muscles so they cannot move or communicate.

Researchers looked at details from around three million operations in public hospitals in the U.K. and Ireland. They used the data to find areas that could be improved during an operation. They made a list of 64 recommendations to try and reduce accidents happening in operating theatres. The most basic recommendation was for doctors to use an anaesthesia checklist before each operation. This could reduce mistakes made by doctors and make sure the patient has the correct levels of the correct drugs. They also recommend using a monitor so doctors know if the patient wakes up and cannot move. A professor said: "I hope this report will ensure anaesthetists pay even greater attention to preventing episodes of awareness."

Sources: NHS.co.uk / Express.co.uk / Independent.co.uk

Writing

It's better to be awake during an operation. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

new report / operation / patients / major surgery / wake up / operating table / relax / details / hospitals / recommendations / checklist / drugs / pay attention / awareness

True / False

- A report said over 10,000 patients woke up during surgery last year. T / F
- An anaesthetist's job is to make us sleep before an operation. T / F
- A doctor said it wasn't so rare for someone to wake up during surgery. T / F
- Patients who wake up cannot talk because of drugs that relax muscles. T / F
- Researchers used data from 3 million operations in their report. T / F
- Researchers made 100 recommendations to reduce accidents. T / F
- Researchers said monitors to alert doctors would be of little use. T / F
- A professor said anaesthetists did not need to pay more attention. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. leading | a. uncommon |
| 2. undergoing | b. facts |
| 3. rare | c. fundamental |
| 4. alert | d. major |
| 5. communicate | e. stopping |
| 6. details | f. cut |
| 7. improved | g. having |
| 8. basic | h. warn |
| 9. reduce | i. bettered |
| 10. preventing | j. tell |

Discussion – Student A

- How scary would it be to wake up during an operation?
- It's 2014. Why do anaesthetists still need new checklists?
- Why do accidents happen in operating theatres?
- Should patients also check the checklist before their surgery?
- What would you do in the hours before an operation?
- What would you think about in the 30 minutes before surgery?
- If you had an operation, would you like to see a video of it after?
- What questions would you like to ask a surgeon?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- two leading
- people who put us to
- very rare for someone
- feelings of fear
- the drugs relax
- details from around
- find areas that could
- operating
- the correct levels of the
- pay even greater
- to wake up
- and panic
- attention
- three million operations
- organisations
- be improved
- sleep before surgery
- correct drugs
- their muscles
- theatres

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'operation'?
- What do you think of people waking up on the operating table?
- Would you prefer to be asleep or awake during an operation?
- Have you ever had an operation?
- How risky is it to have an operation?
- What would you do if you woke up during surgery?
- Do you think a surgeon is a good job?
- Would you be a good surgeon?

Spelling

- thousands of tnsetipa a year wake up
- possibly elvares thousand
- ncoucsois while they are undergoing....
- one in every 19,000 oarstnoepi
- the drugs relax their lsumsce
- they cannot move or tmmcuincae
- Researchers looked at liseadt
- areas that could be vedoiprm
- try and reduce ieacdcnts
- They also eremcodmn using a monitor
- pay even greater tntaetino
- etgnnverip episodes of awareness

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. a	4. h	5. j
6. b	7. i	8. c	9. f	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Blood donation

You think blood donation is the least scary thing to do in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are really scary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): stitches, tooth extraction or liposuction.

Role B – Stitches

You think stitches is the least scary thing to do in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are really scary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): blood donation, tooth extraction or liposuction.

Role C – Tooth extraction

You think tooth extraction is the least scary thing to do in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are really scary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): stitches, blood donation or liposuction.

Role D – Liposuction

You think liposuction is the least scary thing to do in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are really scary about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): stitches, tooth extraction or blood donation.

Speaking – Hospital

Rank these with your partner. Put the least scary things done at hospitals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- blood donation
- skin graft
- tooth pulled out
- appendix removal
- stitches
- liposuction
- face lift
- camera down throat

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.