



Competencies on Circulation Assessment

PACU Circulation Learning and Teaching Resource

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Competencies : Cardiovascular Assessment

Core clinical learning outcomes:

- *Is able to critically assess the patient's cardiovascular status in the immediate post anaesthetic period in relation to :*
- *An understanding of how to recognise normal cardiovascular function*
- *An understanding of the known risks to heart and circulation occasioned by anaesthesia/surgery*
- *Skill in observation of abnormal / impaired / insufficient cardiovascular function*

	A. Normal cardiovascular function ● <i>Enables the novice to understand normal cardiovascular function from whence any deviation will suggest circulatory insufficiency</i>
1.	Explains how to recognise normal cardiovascular function [from physical signs and monitored information]
	B. Physical assessment ● <i>Enables the novice to understand how to use physical assessment and monitored information to assess the patient's actual cardiovascular status from reception to discharge</i>
2.	● Assesses patient's level of consciousness, airway and breathing
3.	● Assesses patient's blood pressure

4.	Assesses patient's heart rate
5.	Assesses patients ECG
6.	Assesses patient's CVP [if in situ]
7.	Assesses patient's core and peripheral temperature
8.	Assesses patient colour
9.	Assesses CSM [colour, sensation, movement] – distal joints
10.	Assesses patient skin turgor – dry or wet
11.	Assesses fluid balance [with urine output]
	C. Critical Assessment : Clinical RISK analysis <i>Enables the novice to critically assess the potential for cardiovascular complications from knowledge of patient factors and record of anaesthesia and surgery</i>
11.	Identifies risk of cardiovascular problems associated patient's cardiovascular medical history
12.	Identifies risk of cardiovascular problems associated with patient's age
13.	Identifies risk of cardiovascular problems associated with anaesthesia
14.	Identifies risk of cardiovascular problems associated with surgery

	<i>D. Assessment of deviation from normal cardiovascular function</i> <i>Enables the novice to recognise cardiovascular insufficiency and relate it to possible cause</i>
15.	Able to identify hypotensive states providing rationale for possible cause
16.	Able to identify hypertensive states providing rationale for possible cause
17.	Able to identify cardiac arrhythmias [specifiy]
18.	Able to identify signs of cardiac insufficiency