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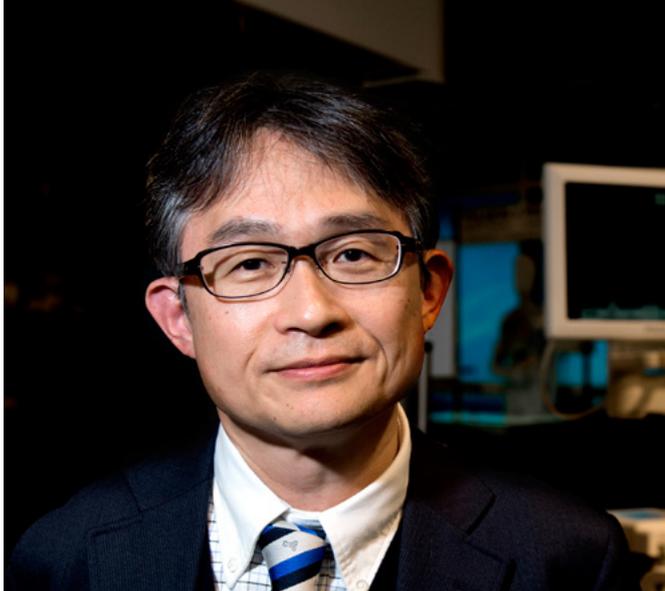
Professor Michiyoshi Sanuki, MD, PhD, shares his impressions of AGC on the FLOW-i anesthesia platform.

Low flow anesthesia and first impressions of AGC – Automatic Gas Control

Associate Professor Michiyoshi Sanuki, MD, PhD works at the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the Hiroshima University Hospital in Japan. This prestigious institution has maintained a reputation for clinical practice, education and research within the field of anesthesiology for almost 70 years.

Professor Sanuki has contributed to this effort with his own scientific research; as co-author in over 43 peer-reviewed publications and as Associate Editor of the Anesthesia and Resuscitation Journal.

Critical Care News had the opportunity of meeting with Professor Sanuki to get his impressions on some recent developments within anesthesia.



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Can you share some of your background and clinical experience from the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at Hiroshima University?

I have been working with the department for about 8 years. In terms of patient categories, we treat patients of all ages including neonatal, however these are less frequent. We anesthetize patients undergoing lung surgery, laparoscopic surgery, transplant surgeries as well as cardiovascular surgery. In general, we treat patients undergoing quite major and comprehensive surgical procedures that usually take a very long time in the OR.

What are your specific areas of interest, in anesthesiology and in addition to the field?

In addition to clinical anesthesiology, I am especially interested in the development and technical progress of medical equipment and monitors. I have maintained a special interest in anesthesia technology for over 20 years.

In regard to anesthesia technology, we noted that one of your research articles was entitled “Strong and Weak areas of Automated Anesthesia Record Systems”. What are your current opinions in general regarding the use of low flow anesthesia?

I think the use of low flow anesthesia is very safe and necessary in Japan. For the future, I believe that by educating about low flow anesthesia and the spread of safety laws in connection with anesthesia equipment are factors that will lead to low flow anesthesia being regarded as a cost-friendly and effective solution for the global environment. Since the launch of Desflurane in Japan in 2011, the number of low flow anesthesia cases has been steadily increasing.

What is your experience of Automatic Gas Control – AGC in clinical practice?

I experienced the use of AGC in connection with spinal surgeries. I was amazed by the low level of consumption of Sevoflurane – very small doses indeed. From this experience, I feel strongly that FLOW-i is a highly reliable anesthesia machine, even at low flow anesthesia at 0.3 liter per minute fresh gas flow, and very stable. It was an absolutely amazing experience, with no comparison to it.

What do you see as future enhancements to the AGC functionality?

In the future, I think it is important to enhance the prediction tool to improve brain concentration rates for Sevoflurane and Desflurane.

What do you think will be the contribution of AGC to your clinical practice in future, in terms of patient and user benefits?

I think AGC will be a friendly anesthesia solution for patients as well as anesthesiologists. The benefit for the patient will be in the reduction of anesthesia cost, as this is charged to the patient in Japan. In terms of benefit for anesthesiologists, I think AGC will reduce stress during the anesthesia procedure, especially long procedures.

A final question: we understand that you were Medical Advisor to the earthquake medical drama “Until The Day Comes” featured at the Tokyo International Film Festival in 2014. How did you experience teaching basic anesthesiology to the actors?

It was a very exciting experience, and I was very impressed by the actress whom I specially advised and how she acted like a real anesthesiologist. Personally, I can't say that I have ever experienced surgery during a real earthquake – our location in Hiroshima is fortunately one of the lowest areas of earthquake activity in Japan.

(Link to movie trailer: asianwiki.com/Until_The_Day_Comes)

Biography

Michiyoshi Sanuki, MD, PhD received his initial medical degree from Hiroshima University in 1987. He obtained the degree of PhD from Hiroshima University Graduate School of Biomedical & Health Sciences in 1994. He was named Associate Professor by Hiroshima University in 2007. Professor Sanuki currently works in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care of Hiroshima University Hospital, a position that he has held since 2007.