Preoperative Cognitive Dysfunction
It’s More Common Than You Think

Cognitive impairment increases with age...

...and preoperative cognitive dysfunction is associated with adverse outcomes.

1 in 3 surgical patients are 65 or older

Although many patients are at risk, the impact of cognitive impairment on elective surgery outcomes is unknown.

Culley et al. screened orthopedic patients over 65 for probable cognitive impairment using the MiniCog.

2 points for drawing clock
1 point per word recalled

MiniCog Score
0-2: Positive screen
3-5: Negative screen

24% of patients assessed had probable cognitive impairment.

Probable cognitive impairment was associated with worse surgical outcomes:

67% (vs. 34% without impairment)

Postoperative delirium

21% (vs. 7% without impairment)

 Longer hospital stay

These data support screening at-risk patients to identify those at high risk for adverse outcomes. Additional work is needed to define strategies to mitigate these risks.

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