

Unintended consequences of routine preoperative testing in cataract surgery patients.

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Cataract surgery is one of the most common surgeries performed in elderly patients in the US. Though guidelines state that routine preoperative testing is not needed before cataract surgery, such testing still occurs, and its use varies widely among physicians. This unnecessary testing persists in part because it has not been shown to cause harm to patients who receive extra testing. On the other hand, unnecessary testing has the potential to delay surgery because of the time it takes patients to undergo testing and await the results. This is important because studies have shown that extended waits for cataract surgery are associated with more falls and fall-related injuries in older adults. We hypothesize that patients of physicians who routinely order preoperative tests are more likely to experience delayed surgery and fall-related injuries compared to patients of physicians who do not order routine preoperative tests. This study will create new evidence of the unintended clinical consequences of providing low-value care during the perioperative period.