

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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# Who performs the preoperative examination?

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## To the editor

Anesthesiologists generally perform preoperative examinations of patients undergoing anesthesia that will be managed by those anesthesiologists; however, anesthesiologists have not been paying attention to other cases. Hereby, we present a recently experienced case. A 55-year-old male (168 cm, 62 kg) with severe renal dysfunction underwent reinsertion of a dialysis catheter under local anesthesia using 1% lidocaine in the operation room in the daytime. For the case, the anesthesiologist was not involved in. After complaining severe pain during surgery, the patient suffered a cardiac arrest suddenly. We performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation following an emergency call. Since cardiopulmonary resuscitation was unsuccessful, we suspected aortic dissection. We inserted a probe, performed transesophageal echocardiography, and were able to diagnose an aortic dissection. Cardiopulmonary bypass surgery was performed, and the patient's aneurysm was repaired with a synthetic graft. The patient was discharged 1 month later without complications. If we had examined the chest computed tomography images taken 1 year, we would have seen thoracic aortic aneurysms that were 5.0 cm in size.

This case prompted us to raise the question “Who should perform preoperative examinations of patients undergoing surgery under local anesthesia when anesthesiologists are not involved in?” Although the best answer is that anesthesiologists should perform preoperative examination in all cases, that is impossible from a manpower standpoint. The Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists established a certification system for perioperative management teams in 2014 [1, 2]. Following the case described above, our hospital began using Perioperative Management Teams, comprising certified medical staff members, to conduct

preoperative examinations of all patients undergoing surgery under local anesthesia. A current limitation of this process is that the preoperative examination protocol of this process is unclear.

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