Surgical Brainstorm: Patient Mobility

Michael Haeusler, Surgical Workplaces, Director of Marketing, MAQUET

Considering purchasing equipment to mobilize patients in and out of the OR? Surgical patient mobility is an important investment decision your hospital must make. Here, Michael Haeusler of MAQUET discusses what to take into account when purchasing patient mobility equipment.

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1. Workflow efficiency in the OR. OR tables with interchangeable table tops change the entire workflow of the OR. An OR table system with an interchangeable table top enables the OR team to prepare a patient for surgery out of the operating theater. The support column for the table remains in the OR, and the table top can be detached and moved (with patient) via a mobile transporter. When one operation has been completed, the system is easily cleaned and the next patient transported into the OR quickly. Patient repositioning and inter-operative time are reduced to help maximize OR efficiency.

2. Safety is improved by reducing the number of patient lifts. Using system tables with detachable tops and transporter system decreases the need to transfer the patient from stretcher to bed since the table top becomes the OR table surface. Safe patient transfer in the OR is now accomplished with 1 person. Eliminating the use of a stretcher can potentially reduce 2 patient lifts per procedure, which in turn could potentially reduce the risk of injury from lifting patients.

3. Flexibility is crucial for today's surgery demands. Use of dedicated table tops support all surgical disciplines from general surgery through to the sophisticated requirements of new Hybrid OR's. Even highly specialized orthopedic procedures are easily accomplished with the use of many accessory devices - from spinal-frame

accessories to MIS Hip devices. Use of dedicated table tops provides the flexibility needed for specialized procedures while facilitating patient mobility. This also eliminates the need for specialized tables in dedicated OR's.

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