

Anaesthesia

TABLE 27.5 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STANDARDS OF MONITORING DURING ANAESTHESIA AND RECOVERY
(Published by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland)

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- a The anaesthetist should be present throughout the conduct of the whole anaesthetic and should ensure that an adequate record of the procedure is made.
 - b Monitoring should be commenced before induction of anaesthesia and continued until the patient has recovered from the anaesthetic.
 - c Monitoring of anaesthetic machine function should include an oxygen analyser (with alarms) and devices which enable leaks, disconnections, rebreathing or overpressure of the breathing system to be detected.
 - d *Continuous* monitoring of ventilation and circulation is essential. This may be performed by use of the human senses augmented, where appropriate, by the use of monitoring equipment. *Clinical observations* include the patient's colour, responses to the surgical stimulus, movements of the chest wall and reservoir bag, palpation of the pulse and auscultation of the breath and heart sounds. *Continuous* monitoring devices include the pulse plethysmograph, the pulse oximeter, the electrocardiograph, the capnograph, and devices for measuring vascular pressures and body temperature.
 - e When intermittent non-invasive methods are used to measure arterial pressure and heart rate the frequency of measurement should be appropriate to the clinical state of the patient.
 - f A peripheral nerve stimulator should be readily available when neuromuscular blocking drugs are employed.
 - g Additional monitoring may be required for long or complicated operations and for patients with co-existing medical disease.
 - h Adequate monitoring is needed during brief anaesthetics or when using local anaesthetic or sedation techniques which may lead to loss of consciousness or to cardiovascular or respiratory complications.
 - i Appropriate monitoring should also be used during transport of the patient.
 - j Anaesthetists should issue clear instructions concerning monitoring of postoperative care when handing over the patient to recovery ward staff. Appropriate monitoring facilities should be available in the recovery ward.
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