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Vital Signs

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Researchers Find No Differences in Care Provided by CRNAs and Anesthesiologists: Cochrane Collaboration



Researchers studying anesthesia safety found no differences in care between nurse anesthetists and physician anesthesiologists based on an exhaustive analysis of research literature published in the United States and around the world, according to a scientific literature review titled "Physician anaesthetists versus non-physician providers of anaesthesia for surgical patients" prepared by The Cochrane Collaboration.

Headquartered in England, the esteemed Cochrane Collaboration is an independent, international network of healthcare practitioners, researchers, patient advocates and others who analyze healthcare research to produce credible, accessible health information.

The objective of the anesthesia study (Issue 7 of The Cochrane Library, 2014) was to assess the safety and effectiveness of different anesthesia providers for patients undergoing surgical procedures under general, regional or epidural anesthesia. The inquiry was motivated by "an increasing demand for surgery, pressure on healthcare providers to reduce costs, and a predicted shortfall in the number of medically qualified anaesthetists (anesthesiologists)," the report stated.

"We hoped that this may lead to an increase in confidence in the skills of NPAs (nonphysician anesthetists) within the anaesthetic community and may potentially lead to greater flexibility in team roles, both within and between countries, depending on patient need," the researchers noted in their paper as part of their rationale for "Why it is important to do this review." [Read more.](#)



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