DNR IN THE OR?

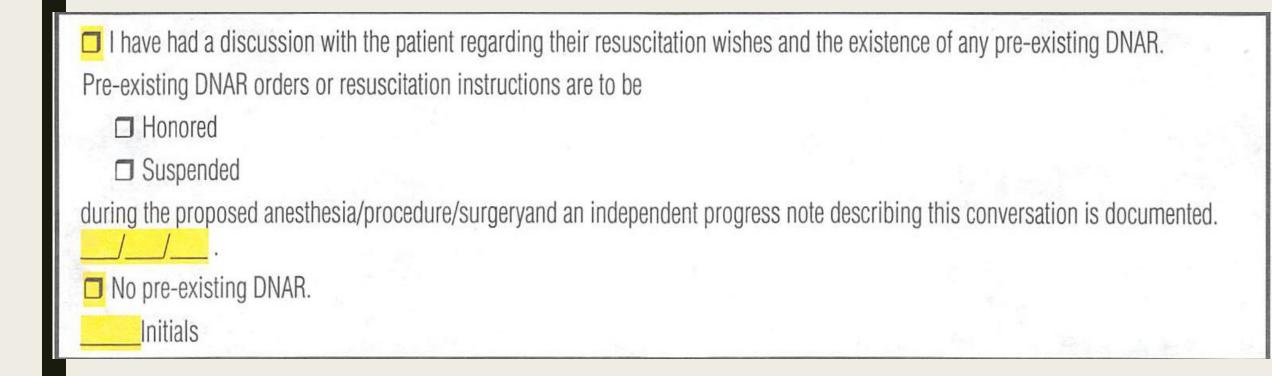
Sonia Ramamoorthy MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery

The Problem

 Past iterations of the consent assumed that all patients were FULL CODE FULL CARE in the OR

■ DNR orders suspended in the OR to allow for standard anesthesia practice

The Solution?



The Problem

- Unhappy surgeons
- Scared patients
- Residents checking boxes
- Who is this meant for MDs? Patients? Lawyers?

Background info.....

- Overriding a DNR has implications
- Sick and ill patients undergo procedures as a form of palliation
- ACS recommends a "required reconsideration" approach which means.....talk to the patient and document

Anesthesia Perspective

- Scope of care involves resuscitation
- Medications and surgery can cause loss of normal vitals
- Patients most often require intubation, mechanical control of ventilation and cessation of breathing by paralytics and often variations in heart rate that can be regulated with intervention
- Ultimately runs "a code" if it occurs
- Where do we draw the line?

Surgeon Perspective

- Infrequent problem but with an aging population...
- Ultimate responsibility: doctor-pt relationship
- Is penalized for mortality rates related to operative interventions
- Feels responsible as cause of demise in the OR can be iatrogenic: bleeding, mis calculations of risk, medication

Interesting Facts

- CPR: On wards: 4-14% survival In OR: 50-80% survival
- Up to 50% of patients are unaware of a DNR order in their chart
- Many surgeons/anesthesia are unaware of DNR, Blood refusals in chart as it is not in an obvious location
- Many surgeons/anesthesia are not trained to have adequate end of life discussions

Questions

- Do we need to address DNR with all pts going to the OR
- Do we suspend DNR for the length of OR time
- Do we expect surgeons anesthesia physicians to have end of life discussions with patients
- Do we let patients decide on a cases by case, event by event basis? Is this burdening them?
- Do we let proxies decide?

References

- American College of Surgeons "Statement on Advanced Directives in the OR" Jan 3, 2014. www.facs.org
- University of Washington School of Medicine "Ethics in Medicine" DNR During Anesthesia
- UCSD Surgical Consent Form 1 2014