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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

This reference guide is designed to provide the neurotechnologist with perioperative information that is otherwise difficult to obtain. It also acts as a checklist to help ensure that proper protocol is being followed and that all avenues for comprehensive, multimodality monitoring for spinal surgeries have been implemented.

Operating Room Protocols

Upon your arrival in the operating room (OR), routine housekeeping activities are conducted, as a matter of protocol, to ensure you are in the right place at the right time; as a courtesy to other OR members; and to strategically select where you will set up your equipment. This section will guide you through this process.

Surgeon Preference Form

A table to fill out to easily track several preferences per surgeon.

Stimulation and Recording Electrode Sites

Stimulation sites for nerve roots and peripheral nerves that are most commonly monitored are illustrated in this section. The graphic representation of the response generated from stimulating the nerve root is represented as well. Use this section as a guide to stimulation sites and to gain a visual awareness of what the generated data should look like graphically to ensure that the data you are gathering are acceptable.

Procedure-Specific Modality Reference

This section provides a quick reference or checklist of the various monitoring modalities to be performed specific to the level of the spine being operated on. Preparation for additional studies may be necessary in the event of an amended procedure.

Anesthesia Considerations

This section addresses the different methods of delivery of anesthetic agents. The two primary methods of delivery are through inhalation and intravenously (IV). The agents are broken down into classifications and by their effect on monitoring modalities. Knowledge of the effects that anesthesia will have on the various monitoring modalities will help you determine if the prolongation of a latency or a reduced amplitude is influenced by the anesthetic agent.

Troubleshooting

Intraoperative monitoring (IOM) provides many important benefits. Chief among them is the ability of the neurotechnologist (NT) to determine what has caused a change in the information being recorded or a shift from base-line as it relates to the surgical procedure. Many factors under the control of the anesthesiologist, the surgeon, and the NT can influence the information obtained from monitoring~ In each case, the cause for the shift from baseline must be identified and the surgeon notified. Tables of technical considerations and anesthesia considerations are both included in this section.