

## Geriatric Anesthesia

V. Itichaikhunton, J. Punaray.

\*Department of Anesthesiology, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

With recent economical and medical progress in Thailand, There has been a big change in the health structure. People are living longer and enjoying better medical service. Because of this, there has been a big increase in the number of elderly patients in all Thai hospital. So, in administering anesthesia to the elderly, there are several specific precautions. The anesthesiologists must understand the effects of aging in the organ and the consequences of age-related disease. The optimal anesthetic management of elderly patients requires adequate diagnosis and treatment of concurrent diseases, meticulous attention on the details of preparation and positioning and the use of monitoring techniques permitting adjustments in dosage appropriate to the altered requirement for anesthetic and adjuvant drugs. However, elderly patients are at greater risk of perioperative morbidity and mortality than the young ones. Increased rate and severity of complications may also reflect decreased autonomic homeostasis and a reduced capacity to tolerate or compensate for imposed pathology or surgical stress.