

Preanesthetic Anxiety Assessment : HADS versus APAIS

Sirinan C, M.D.,* Rungreungvanich M, M.D.,* Vijitpavan A, M.D.,* Morkchareonpong C, M.D.*

*Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Bangkok, 10400

We assessed patients' anxiety and concern regarding anesthesia in preanesthetic phase by comparing two measurements of anxiety : The hospital anxiety and depression scale (HADS) and the Amsterdam preoperative anxiety and information scale (APAIS), and determine their equivalent in assessing anxiety.

One hundred and seventy patients completed questionnaire which consisted of 7 items of HADS and 6 items of APAIS in Thai language during preanesthetic visit.

We found that the correlation between two scales were high (0.7). Ten percent of patients could be considered as "anxiety cases" by using HADS cut off value at 11 compared to twelve percent of patients by using APAIS score greater than 13. Woman and the middle aged group (26-45 yr.) had significant higher scores of anxiety than others. Most patients concerned about pain and possibility of not waking up postoperatively.

The prevalence of "anxiety cases" in our study was low. Both scales, HADS and APAIS, were equivalent and could provide anesthesiologists with valid, reliable and easily applicable measurements for assessing preanesthetic anxiety. Key words : Anxiety, preanesthetic assessment anxiety scale.