



European Society of  
Regional Anaesthesia  
& Pain Therapy  
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PALERMO  
San Paolo Palace Hotel

# Cesarean section in urgency/emergency: Locoregional Anaesthesia vs General Anesthesia in rapid sequence

Dott.ssa R.Alessi

Ospedale San Giovanni Di Dio  
Agrigento



Sliding doors effect



Situation awareness

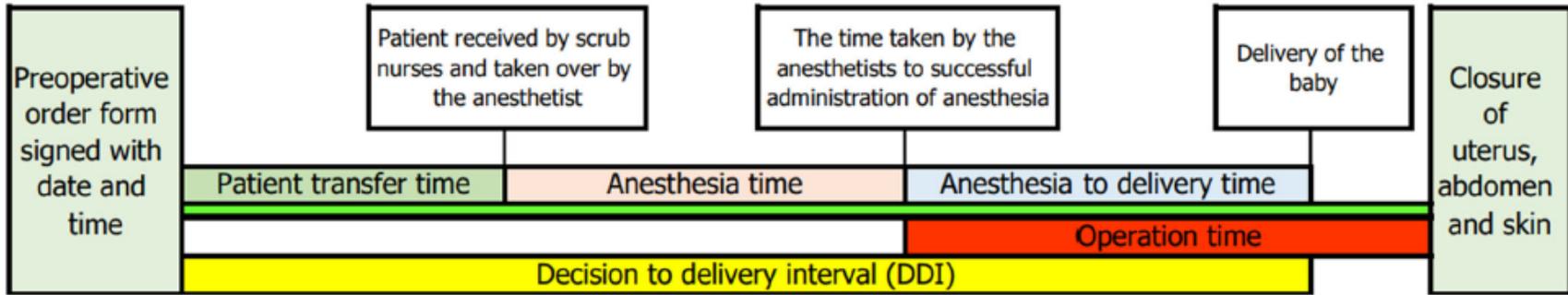
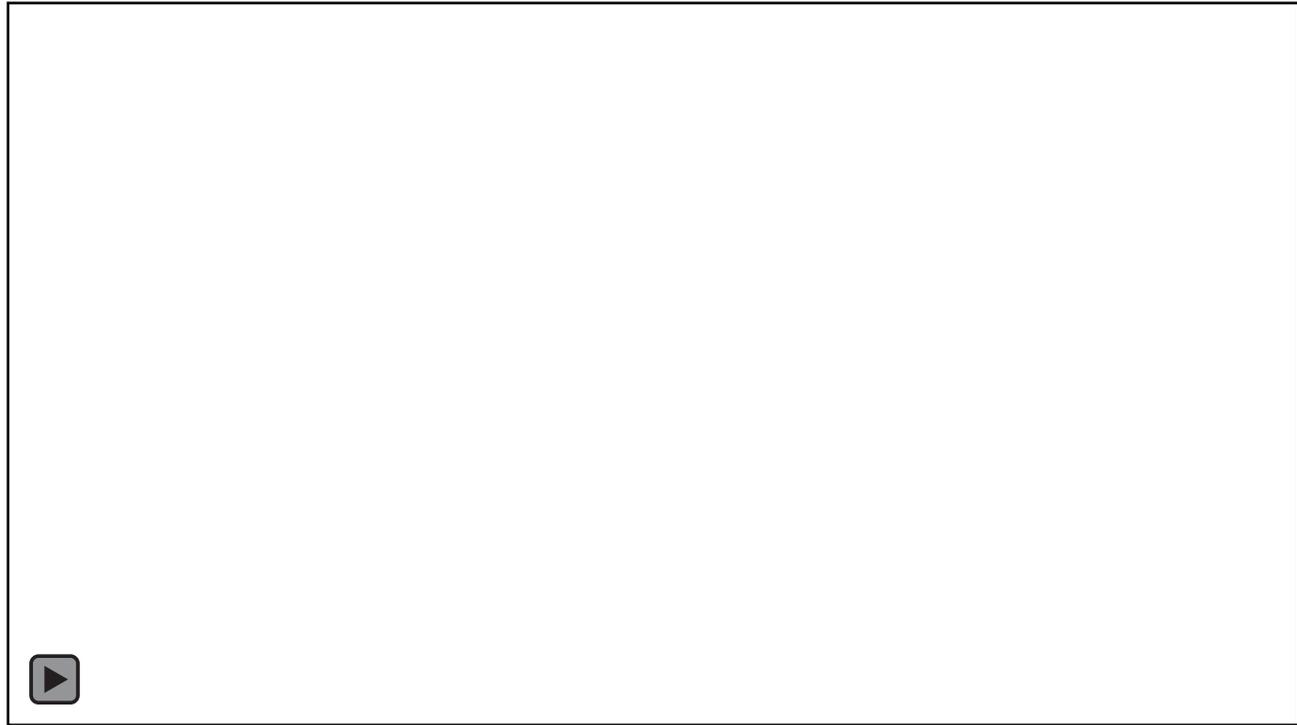


Category 1: Immediate threat to life of the woman or fetus

**30' ..... 15'**

(As soon as possible)

RA or GA...in rapid sequence!



## ***Practice Guidelines for Obstetric Anesthesia***

### ***An Updated Report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Obstetric Anesthesia\****

*Recommendations.* Early insertion of a spinal or epidural catheter for obstetric (e.g., twin gestation or pre-eclampsia) or anesthetic indications (e.g., anticipated difficult airway or obesity) should be considered to reduce the need for GA if an emergent procedure becomes necessary. In these cases, the insertion of a spinal or

#### **7.6 Caesarean section anaesthesia: technique and failure rate**

Dr Makani Purva, Hull Royal Infirmary  
Dr S Mike Kinsella, University Hospitals Bristol

##### **Why do this quality improvement project?**

Emergency anaesthesia for caesarean section may have to be achieved very rapidly and carries significant risks.

##### **Background**

Regional anaesthesia is preferred for caesarean section because of the lower risk of maternal and neonatal morbidity. Most women opt for regional anaesthesia when they have a choice, although very occasionally

# High Safety Profile

**The ideal situation is:** epidural catheter already positioned!

**Top-up with lidocaine 2% (and sodium bicarbonate 8,4 %) 10-15 ml**

**5% of labour epidurals will not work well enough for a Caesarean**

Reg Anesth Pain Med 2022;47(Suppl 1):A1-A315

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**Rapid sequence spinal anaesthesia for category-1 urgency caesarean section: a case series**

S. M. Kinsella,<sup>1</sup> K. Girgirah<sup>2</sup> and M. J. L. Scrutton<sup>1</sup>

**Box 1: Components of the rapid sequence spinal (adapted from reference [4])**

- Deploy other staff for intravenous cannulation and monitoring – don't inject spinal till cannula secured.
- Pre-oxygenate during attempt.
- 'No touch' technique – gloves only with glove packet as sterile surface for equipment. Skin prepared with single wipe of 0.5% chlorhexidine solution.
- If no opioid – consider increased dose hyperbaric bupivacaine 0.5% (up to 3 ml); add fentanyl 25 µg if procuring it does not produce unacceptable delay.
- Local infiltration not mandatory.
- One attempt at spinal unless obvious correction allows a second.
- If necessary start surgery when block  $\geq$  T10 and ascending. Be prepared to convert to general anaesthesia – keep mother informed.



# Rapid Sequence Spinal Anesthesia for Category 1 Cesarean Section: Is it Fast, Effective, and Reliable?

● Kübra Taşkın,<sup>1</sup> ● Cansu Ofluoglu,<sup>2</sup> ● Hulya Yılmaz Ak,<sup>1</sup> ● İrem Durmuş,<sup>1</sup>  
● Merve Bulun Yediyıldız,<sup>1</sup> ● Kemal Saracoglu,<sup>1</sup> ● Banu Cevik<sup>1</sup>

Taşkın. Rapid Sequence Spinal Anesthesia

**Table 1.** Minimum-maximum and mean values of the processing times

	Min.-Max.	Mean (SD)
Preparation time (sec)	39–76	52.1±0.4
Application time (sec)	24–120	47.3±1.6

From the literature, it is difficult to determine the time required precisely and clearly to initiate the case with regional or GA in an emergency (category 1–3) CS. In the case series of Kinsella et al., the median duration of spinal preparation was 2 min.<sup>[7]</sup> Another observational study of emergency CS showed that the average time from wearing gloves to positioning the patient after spinal injection was 5 min.<sup>[15]</sup> In their study, Gunka and Douglas found a minimal difference between GA induction and spinal injection in anesthesia administration for simulated CS, with a median of 2 min 6 s for the first one and 1 min 58 s for the second.<sup>[16]</sup> Within the study conducted by Bhattacharya et al., RSGA and RSSA were compared, and 144.80±3.42 s with RSGA versus 131.20±3.40 s with RSSA; the shorter duration of SA with  $p < 0.001$  supports this study.<sup>[14]</sup> In this study, the application time was shorter than both the original time of Kinsella et al. and the other studies mentioned (preparation time 52.1±0.4 s, administration time 47.3±1.6 s). The reason for this is considered to be the changes made in the RSSA technique. Since the procedure is easier to perform in the sitting position, the spinal injection was performed in this position in this study, and this step was skipped since the patients already had intravenous access. For asepsis, a one-time wiping was applied with 0.5% chlorhexidine solution, which was proven to be adequate according to previous studies.<sup>[8,16]</sup>



## The Current Role of General Anesthesia for Cesarean Delivery

Laurence Ring<sup>1</sup> · Ruth Landau<sup>1</sup> · Carlos Delgado<sup>2</sup>

- Decrease in use of general anesthesia
- Decrease the risks associated with general anesthesia and maternal mortality

approaches for the provision of safe anesthesia in urgent circumstances include (1) neuraxial anesthesia; (2) appropriate communication between obstetricians, perinatologists, and anesthesiologists; and (3) ongoing training including drills and simulation [7]. A recent study evaluating the implementation of standardized team communication and processes to

the overall rate of general anesthesia for cesarean deliveries should be lower than 5%, and the Royal College of Anaesthetists recommend a rate lower than 1% for elective cesareans and less than 5% for those classified as emergent [21].



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## General anaesthesia in obstetrics

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<sup>3</sup>Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, UK

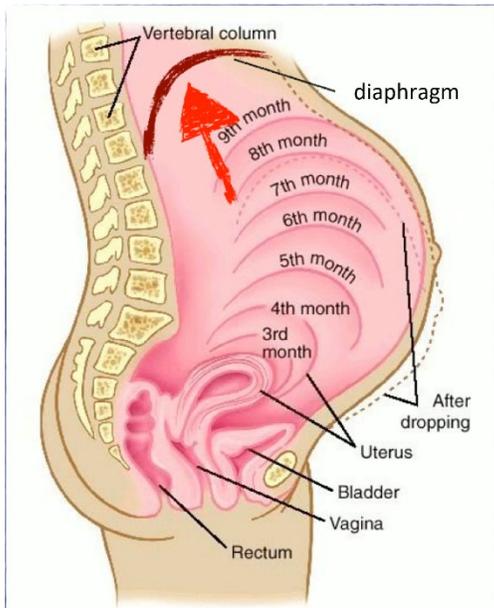
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In USA: 35% -1981  
25%- 2011  
6% - 2020

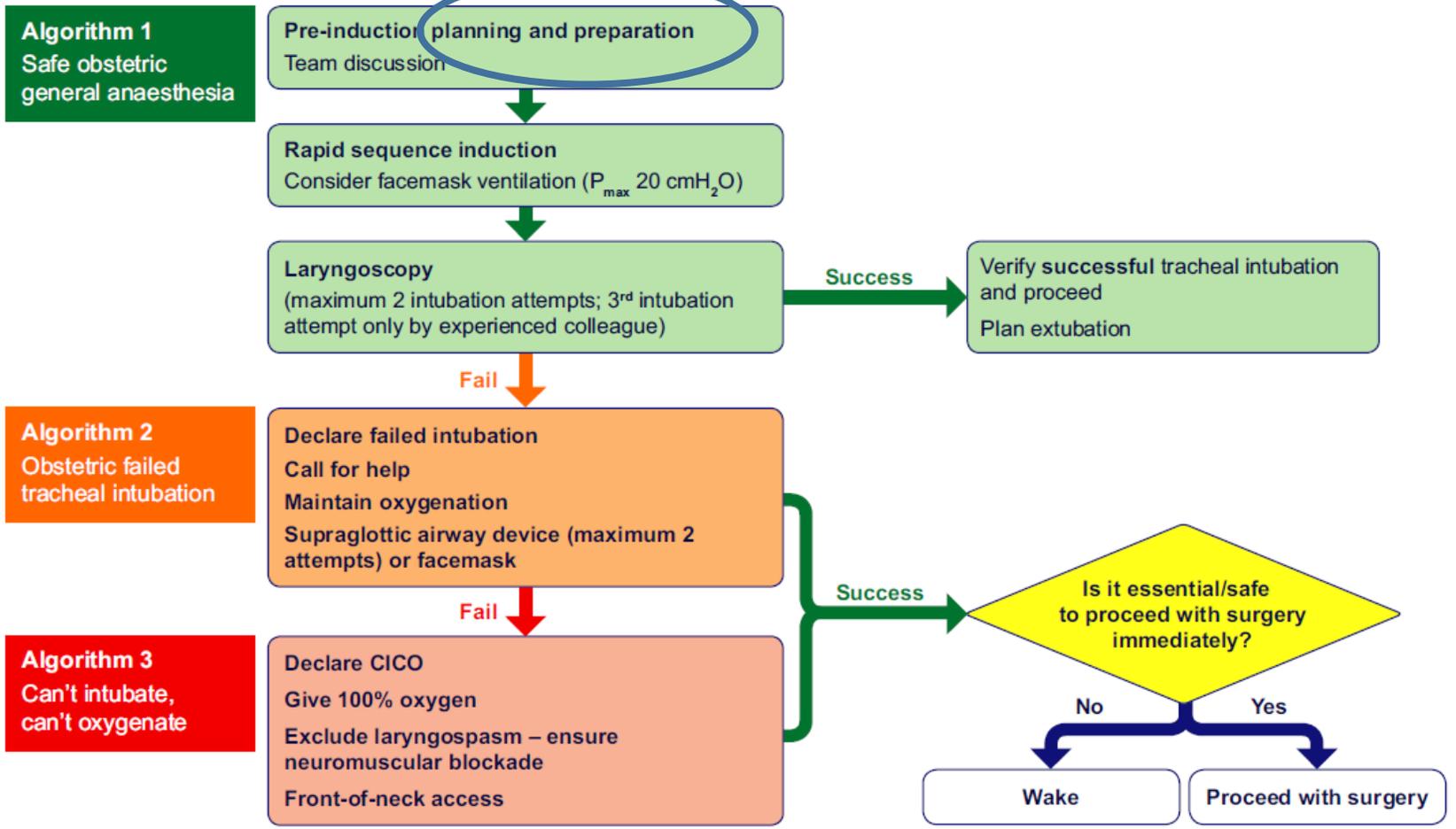
# General Anesthesia in rapid sequence

More difficult: why?

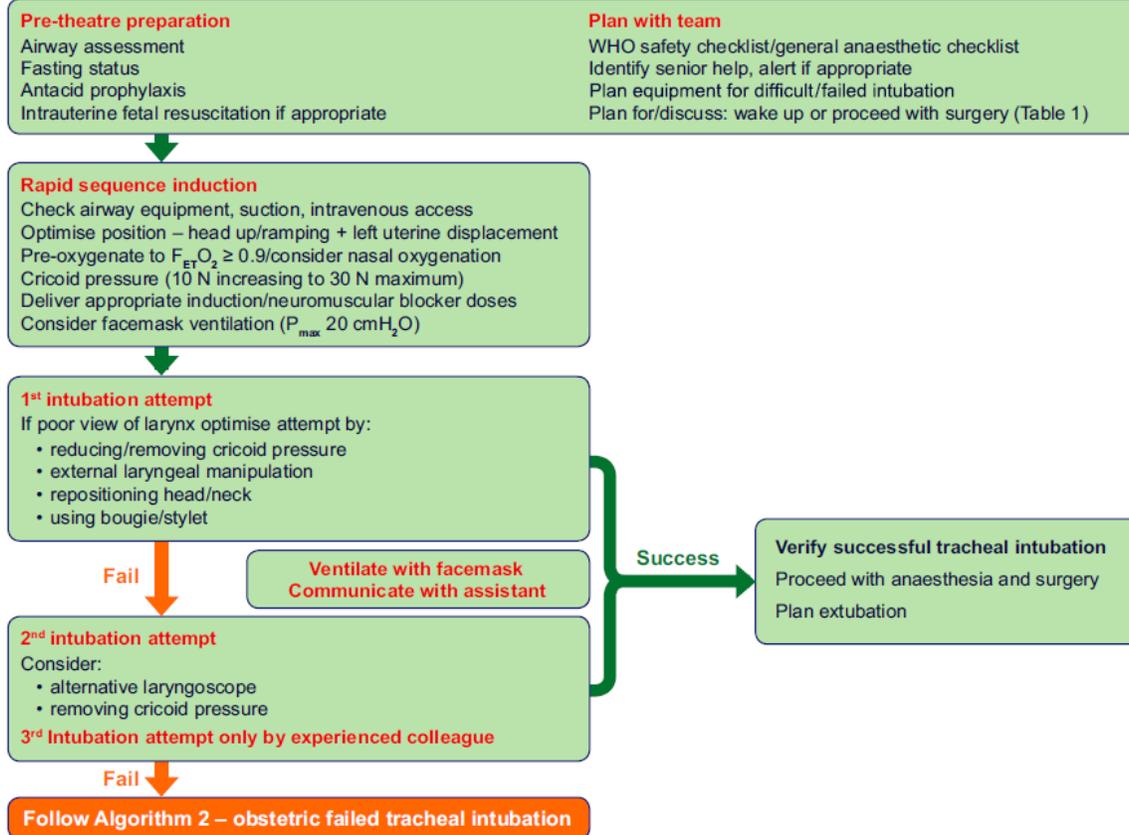
## More complex airway management



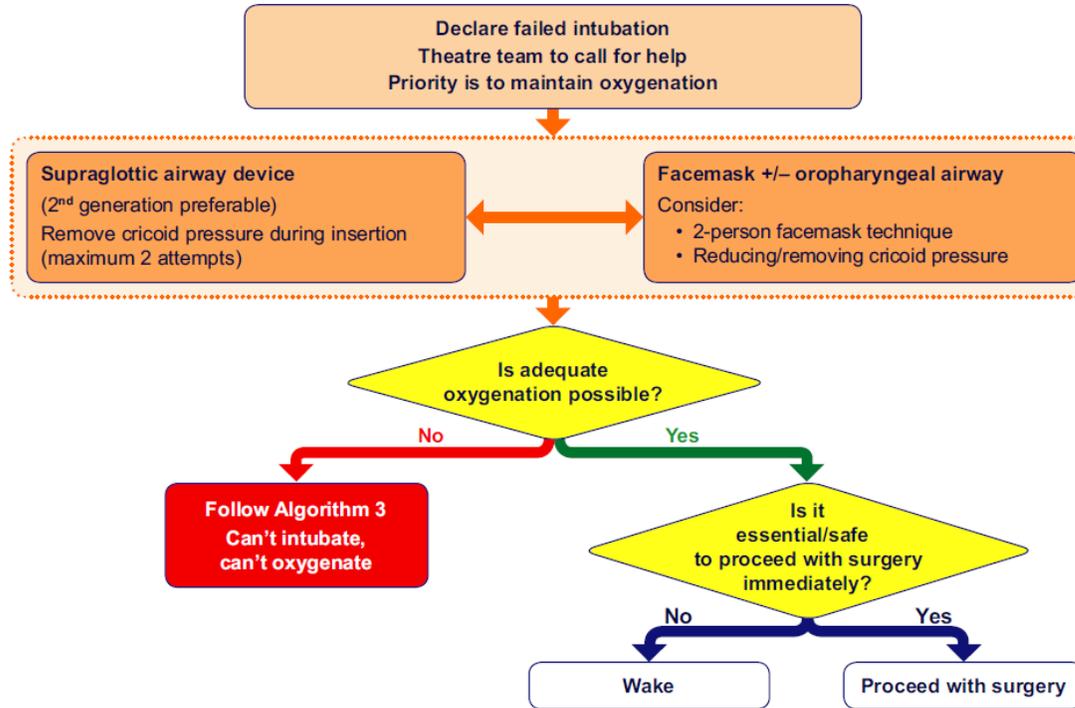
### Master algorithm – obstetric general anaesthesia and failed tracheal intubation



## Algorithm 1 – safe obstetric general anaesthesia



## Algorithm 2 – obstetric failed tracheal intubation



# Guidelines

## Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association and Difficult Airway Society guidelines for the management of difficult and failed tracheal intubation in obstetrics<sup>⊗</sup>

M. C. Mushambi,<sup>1</sup> S. M. Kinsella,<sup>2</sup> M. Popat,<sup>3</sup> H. Swales,<sup>4</sup> K. K. Ramaswamy,<sup>5</sup> A. L. Winton<sup>6</sup> and A. C. Quinn<sup>7,8</sup>

### Extubation of the trachea

Problems at the end of anaesthesia and postoperatively may relate to pulmonary aspiration secondary to regurgitation or vomiting, airway obstruction or hypoventilation [31, 45, 138, 156, 157]. The Fourth National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Difficult Airway Society (NAP4) [45] showed that almost 30% of all adverse events associated with anaesthesia occurred at the end of anaesthesia or during recovery. In a series of 1095 women having general anaesthesia for caesarean section, McDonnell et al. recorded regurgitation in four cases at intubation and

### Debriefing and follow-up

Following an anticipated or unanticipated difficult airway, task debriefing is an important opportunity for the individual and team to reflect on their performance. Successful debriefing is achieved by identifying aspects of good performance, areas of improvement and suggestions of what could be done differently in the future [45, 162, 163].

RESEARCH

Open Access



## Five actions for five people: emergency cesarean section protocol

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- Hi-fidelity simulation has been demonstrated to improve competencies
- Improve patient outcomes
- Develop and enhance teamwork

Improving the quality of assistance and in the perception of staff who work as a team.

### Non-technical skills :

- Leadership
- Decision-making
- Communication
- Teamworking

#### Gynaecologist/ Surgeon

- 1 Making decision for eCS
- 2 Communicating with patient and relatives about eCS and obtaining informed consent
- 3 Calling for other operators (anaesthesiologists, neonatologists, another midwife, eventual second operator)
- 4 Preparing for the surgical procedure (wearing surgical mask, overshoes and disposable cap, surgical hand washing, wearing surgical clothes)
- 5 Surgical site disinfection, bladder catheter application, disinfection and eCS execution.

#### Anaesthesiologists

- 1 Going to patient and evaluating which type of anaesthesia perform to
- 2 Checking allergies and last meal
- 3 Preparing two vein accesses (16G or 14G)
- 4 Preparing drug and material for anaesthesia
- 5 Inducing local or general anaesthesia

#### First Midwife (operating theatre nurse)

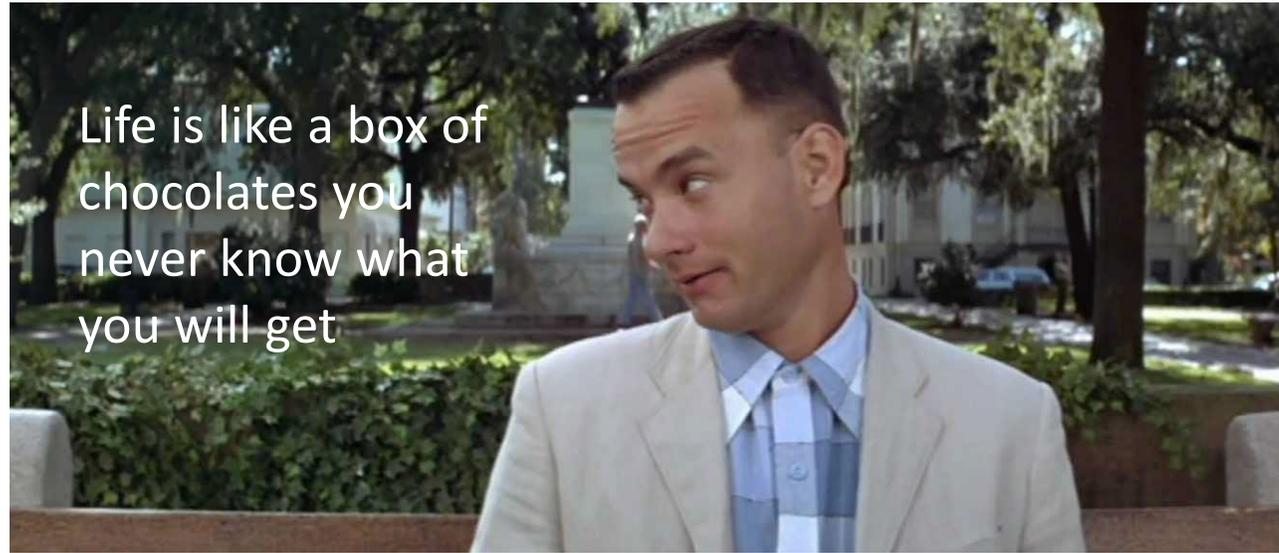
- 1 Calling second midwife
- 2 Preparing for the surgical procedure (wearing surgical mask, overshoes and disposable cap, surgical hand washing, wearing surgical clothes)
- 3 Setting the operating table
- 4 Dressing the gynaecologist
- 5 Helping the gynaecologist on eCS

#### Second Midwife (scrub nurse)

- 1 Helping first operating room nurse on setting up operating table
- 2 Connect reservoir for bladder catheter.
- 3 Helping anaesthesiologist for anaesthesia procedure
- 4 Completing preparation of operative room (electrosurgical unit, vacuum, drugs etc.)
- 5 Take neonate to neonatologist

#### Healthcare Assistant

- 1 Undressing patient and preparation of the patient for the surgical room
- 2 Moving patient on the stretcher to the surgical room
- 3 Positioning of the surgical table, aiding the anaesthesiologist
- 4 Orientation of the surgical room light
- 5 Setting of bracelets for mom-neonate identification



Remember to be:

- Intuitive ( situational awareness)
- Careful (you are responsible of the mother's life)
- Humble (call for help)
- Sharer (briefing/debriefing even while having your morning coffee)
- Anesthetist (do teamwork)

**No one is strong alone but we are strong together!**