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Perioperative Management of the Obese Patient

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Obesity continues to be a worldwide epidemic impacting all aspects of healthcare including the perioperative period. According to CDC data the prevalence of obesity in the US (as defined by a BMI > 30) is almost 40 % and morbid obesity (BMI>40) is between 5-10%. One third of the general surgical population in the US is obese. Obese patients provide special challenges to the anesthesiologist. Locating veins, measuring blood pressure, ventilating the patient to ensure adequate oxygen delivery, placing a breathing tube can all be extremely challenging to the physician and can result in fatal complications for the patient. Perioperative complications for obese patients include increased cardiovascular risk, pulmonary complications including hypoxia, increased thromboembolic events leading to stroke and increased postoperative infections. My talk will address the pathophysiology of the obese patient and the implications this has in the perioperative period.

Biography:

Dr. Natasha Singh currently serves as Chief of Anesthesiology at the Surgical Center of Fort Lauderdale. She received her MD degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She also has a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She completed her residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital. She has worked in private practice for over 15 years. Her interest in obesity and its perioperative management arose out of her recognizing that over a third of her patients presenting for surgery were obese.