EBM: Controversies and Questions in Surgery

A List of Questions for Research and Discussion

Below you will find a list of questions for each surgical subspecialty that are either controversial or remain unknown. This list is not all inclusive but may be used to assist with topics for individual EBM projects. You don’t have to pick from this list if there is a question or controversy that interests you that you would prefer to investigate. We hope you find this summary of questions helpful as you search for surgically/clinically relevant topics for your research.

Hepatobiliary/Pancreatic:

1. Should small, incidental neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas be resected?
2. Should resectable Pancreatic cancer be treated with neo-adjuvant therapy first?
3. Is laparoscopic pancreatic resection better, worse or equivalent to open resection in post-operative outcomes?

Vascular:

1. What are the indications for and benefits of prophylactic IVC filters?
2. What is the best approach to juxta-renal and higher AAA’s: fenestrated EVAR vs. snorkel repair vs. open repair?
3. What is the best approach to thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms: Open repair vs. debranching and stenting vs. branched stent graft?
4. What is the best approach to critical limb ischemia: Endovascular vs. open bypass?
5. What is better: carotic stenting vs. carotid endarterectomy vs. medical therapy?

Trauma:

1. Is Lovenox more efficacious than unfractionated subcutaneous heparin in the prevention of DVT’s in trauma patients?
2. What are the indications for IVC filters in trauma patients?
3. What criteria warrant obtaining a CT angiogram of the neck to rule out cerebrovascular injury
   a. What are the preferred treatment options of occult cerebrovascular injuries?
4. What is the preferred timing and treatment (open repair vs. TEVAR) of traumatic aortic transection?
5. What are the indications for Damage Control Surgery in the modern era?
6. What is the appropriate ratio of blood products in the resuscitation of a trauma patient who requires massive resuscitation (>10 units PRBC’s over 24 hours)?
7. What is the appropriate management traumatic splenic laceration: Open vs. angio-embolization?
Emergency General Surgery

1. What is the role of interval appendectomy in the adult patient with perforated appendicitis treated non-operatively?
2. When should one consider colostomy vs. primary repair in perforated/complicated diverticulitis?
3. What is the role of laparoscopic hernia repair compared to open hernia repair?

Surgical Critical Care

1. What is the definition of adrenal insufficiency in the critically ill patient (diagnostic criteria) and what is the duration of corticosteroids?
2. Is it okay to start enteral feeds when a patient is on pressors?
3. What is the role of bedside echocardiogram vs. PA catheter vs. CVP in the resuscitation of critically ill patients?
4. What is the timing and type of antibiotics to be used in the face of suspected nosocomial pneumonia?
5. What are the indications for transfusion of blood in the critically ill patient?
6. Early vs. late tracheostomy for vent dependent respiratory failure
7. Mannitol vs. hypertonic saline for intracranial hypertension
8. When/if to stop anti-coagulation/anti-platelet therapy pre-operatively
9. ARDS net protocol vs. APRV ventilator modes
10. Prone positioning vs. ECMO for ARDS

Colorectal

Endocrine/Oncologic Surgery

1. The use of nerve monitoring in thyroidectomy
2. Use of PTH monitoring in parathyroidectomy for secondary and tertiary hyperparathyroidism
3. Role of prophylactic neck dissection for papillary thyroid cancer
4. Use of J tube for Whipple patients
5. Access to care for disadvantaged patients

GI Surgery

1. Fundoplication after paraesophageal hernia repair
2. Routine cholangiogram during laparoscopic cholecystectomy
3. Watchful waiting vs. routine inguinal hernia repair in men

Thoracic Surgery

1. Management strategies for Stage IIIA lung cancer
Ortho Trauma

1. Timing of operative debridement of open fractures
2. Early total care vs Damage Control
3. Embolization in Pelvic Ring Injuries
4. Hemiarthroplasty vs Total Hip Arthroplasty in the Femoral Neck Fracture in the Elderly
5. Compartment syndrome – indications for surgery