Mobilizing Older Adults Facing a Surgical Procedure

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Background

- More than 4 million major surgical operations are performed annually in US on older patients
- Relatively little is known about course of disability before and after major elective and non-elective surgery
- Few interventions have focused on improving functional outcomes after major surgery

Functional Trajectories before and after Major Surgery



Stabenau et al, Ann Surg, 2018



Summary

- Among older persons, long-term function after major surgery is highly dependent on function before surgery
- Older persons undergoing major surgery rarely improve their function and frequently experience functional decline
- Outcomes are worse for non-elective surgery



Yale PREHAB Study



Areas Targeted

- Muscle strength
- Balance and transfers
- Gait: indoor and outdoor
- Assistive devices and footwear
- Compensatory strategies
- Home environment







Early, goal-directed mobilisation in the surgical intensive care unit: a randomised controlled trial

Resulted in improved patient mobilisation throughout SICU admission, shortened patient length of stay in the SICU, and improved patients' functional mobility at hospital discharge

A Define a challenging mobilisation goal each day

	Level 0 No activity	Level 1 Passive range of motion	Level 2 Sitting	Level 3 Standing	Level 4 Ambulation
Safety criteria to advance mobilisation	a) Stable spine b) No excessive predicted mortality within the next 24 h c) ICP <20 cm H ₂ 0	*			
		a) Follows one-step commands b) Volitional movement present c) No SCI, open lumbar drains, open EVD, femoral-vein access for CVVH	*		
			a) 3 of 5 bilateral quadriceps strength* b) Sits with no support c) No weight-bearing restrictions	•	
				a) Stands twice with minimal assistance b) Steps-in-place with minimal assistance	•

B Implement the challenging mobilisation goal across shifts

• Address potential barriers for the goal

• Develop appropriate procedures to reach the goal

Ensure inter-professional closed-loop communication

Walking 1/4 Mile





Hospitalization



Absolute Risk Difference, %

- No precipitant
- Restricted activity
- Hospitalization

Gaps and Opportunities

- Better elucidate reasons for poor functional outcomes after major surgery, including role of intervening events
- Determine whether early mobilization after major surgery improves long-term functional outcomes
- Evaluate multifactorial interventions to improve functional outcomes after major surgery
 - prehabilitation, early mobilitization, rehabilitation
 - identify components that are most effective
 - identify persons who would benefit most