

Sustainability in anaesthesia and intensive care

Situational awareness and national initiatives

The Italian Society of Anaesthesia Analgesia Reanimation and Intensive Care (SIAARTI)



SIAARTI represents 11.000 Italian Anaesthesiologists, Intensivists, and Pain Therapists.

SIAARTI develops guidelines, clinical protocols and education about anaesthesia and intensive care.

SIAARTI deals with giving support to scientific activities, study groups, residents' training and it coordinates and sets a standard in therapeutic knowledge to improve anaesthesia, resuscitation, intensive care and pain management.

Do you have national guidelines on sustainability?



No; to the best of our knowledge currently there are not Italian national guidelines on how to improve sustainability in anaesthesia.

The topic is considered in the development of the documents under preparation.

However, local expert opinions based on scientific evidence are available for Italian anesthesiologists.

Ex: Sibilla C. Il Nuovo Anestesiista Rianimatore-Numero 5-Settembre-Ottobre 2019-Le Pagine Utili.

What barriers have you encountered to sustainable practice?

- Inadequate training, knowledge and sensibility among caregivers and local administration to the topic/issue
- Lack of national guidelines or recommendations (best clinical practice)
- Uncommon use of pre-prepared kit to reduced waste (ex. epidural/spinal prepared kit)
- Presence of regional regulations/legislations that limit choices to improve sustainability in anaesthesia.
- Lack of institutional policies to facilitate sustainability
- Structural limitations in the operating room to facilitate waste recycling



Does technology allow you to follow existing guidelines?

Current technology available in our country might facilitate to follow existing international guidelines¹

In particular, the main recommendations suggested by the guidelines could be followed as pEEG TIVA is commonly used, regional anaesthesia frequently performed, nitrous oxide is rarely available in the operating rooms. Moreover, few centers have implemented waste reduction strategies in the operating room and in intensive care units (ex. disposable emergency drugs).

¹ White et al. Principles of environmentally-sustainable anaesthesia: a global consensus statement from the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. 2021; Anaesthesia Volume 77, Issue 2 p. 201-212

Are there any exemplary cases of sustainability in centres in your country?

To the best of our knowledge, we are not aware of any exemplary cases of sustainability in Italian centres.



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