

Q no.	Theme	QUESTION	Overall rank (based on total votes)	Clinician rank	Lay rank
1	MATERNITY	How can pain relief during childbirth be improved?	43	46	44
2	MATERNITY	How do epidurals affect progress and outcomes of labour (childbirth), and how can adverse effects be minimised?	24	24	30
3	MATERNITY	How can detection and management of maternal bleeding during childbirth be improved?	48	37	63
4	MATERNITY	How do anaesthetic interventions during pregnancy or around the time of birth affect the baby?	47	38	61
5	MATERNITY	How can anaesthesia for Caesarean sections be improved?	72	63	80
6	MATERNITY	What anaesthetic strategies can reduce complications and deaths in higher risk pregnancies?	35	29	53
7	CHILDREN	How can we reduce pain after surgery in children and newborns?	50	50	51
8	CHILDREN	How can we reduce anxiety in children undergoing surgery?	46	47	47
9	CHILDREN	What are the effects of anaesthesia on the developing brain?	7	9	4

10	CHILDREN	How can pre-operative assessment for children be improved?	85	77	90
11	CHILDREN	How can we improve outcomes through better monitoring of children around the time of surgery?	87	81	91
12	CHILDREN	What intravenous fluids should we give children having surgery?	63	48	77
13	CHILDREN	What are the long-term effects of anaesthesia in babies?	29	25	40
14	CHILDREN	What can we do to improve outcomes for higher risk children having surgery?	76	67	79
15	CHILDREN	What is the best way to organise anaesthetic and surgical services for children?	52	49	56
16	ELDERLY CARE	How can the anaesthetic team improve outcomes for hip fracture patients ?	34	30	48
17	ELDERLY CARE	How can we reduce the effects of anaesthesia on brain function , particularly in the elderly?	1	3	1
18	ELDERLY CARE	What are the consequences of low blood pressure around the time of surgery, particularly in the elderly?	8	8	11
19	ELDERLY CARE	How can we reduce the risks of anaesthesia in elderly patients?	22	21	23

20	ELDERLY CARE	How can we improve recovery from surgery for elderly patients?	14	19	9
21	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	How can protocols, guidelines, checklists and care pathways improve the safety and effectiveness of anaesthesia?	33	33	41
22	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	How can operating theatre efficiency be improved?	15	10	27
23	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	How can patient care around the time of emergency surgery be improved?	21	14	37
24	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	What is the best way to organise specialist surgical services ?	73	61	83
25	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	How can patient data be used to improve perioperative care?	41	35	55
26	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	What outcomes should we use to measure the 'success' of anaesthesia and perioperative care?	5	4	12
27	PERIOPERATIVE CARE DELIVERY	How do we decide which clinicians should deliver the different elements of perioperative care?	74	64	82
28	TRAINING	How can we most effectively deliver training to improve quality and safety in anaesthesia and perioperative care?	18	18	19
29	TRAINING	Should anaesthetists receive more training on caring for patients with specific medical problems (eg Ehlers Danlos syndrome?)	59	86	24

30	TRAINING	Would greater use of Physician's Assistants (Anaesthesia) be beneficial?	66	53	75
31	TRAINING	What training or resources could improve perioperative care in developing countries ?	67	56	71
32	PAIN	How can anaesthesia and pain relief be improved for patients with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome ?	69	91	31
33	PAIN	How can pain control be improved in patients with longstanding medical conditions ?	53	73	25
34	PAIN	How can we better predict the severity of pain immediately after surgery?	42	42	49
35	PAIN	How can we improve our use of drugs to provide better pain relief before and after surgery?	32	41	21
36	PAIN	How can we use non-drug therapies to provide better pain relief before and after surgery?	56	65	38
37	PAIN	How can we better assess perioperative pain in adults and children?	80	76	78
38	PAIN	What are the risk factors for developing chronic pain after surgery?	60	57	57
39	PAIN	What can we do to stop patients developing chronic pain after surgery?	11	13	8

40	PAIN	What can we do to reduce the side effects of pain relief medications?	65	75	43
41	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	What are the risks and benefits of epidural and spinal injections for major abdominal surgery?	28	23	39
42	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	How can the effectiveness of epidural and spinal injections be improved?	68	60	64
43	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	How do we improve involvement of patients in decision-making about regional anaesthesia?	58	58	52
44	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	How can the effectiveness of regional (local) anaesthetic techniques (other than epidural and spinal injections) be improved?	64	55	66
45	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	For which patients does regional (local) anaesthesia give better outcomes than general anaesthesia?	2	1	5
46	REGIONAL ANAESTHESIA	How can the risks and side effects of regional (local) anaesthesia be minimised?	75	66	81
47	COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE	How can acupuncture be used to improve recovery from surgery?	91	87	89
48	COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE	How can hypnosis help control anxiety and improve recovery around the time of surgery?	83	78	87
49	COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE	How can complementary medicine help with recovery from surgery?	86	89	74

50	COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE	How can psychological techniques improve post-operative patient outcomes and satisfaction?	70	72	58
51	COMMUNICATION	How can we improve communication between the teams looking after patients having surgery?	17	27	10
52	COMMUNICATION	How could we improve communication between healthcare staff and patients before and after surgery?	40	62	16
53	COMMUNICATION	How can we promote compassion and empathy among staff caring for patients having surgery?	49	69	26
54	COMMUNICATION	What are the benefits of increased patient and carer involvement in perioperative care?	78	83	67
55	ACCIDENTAL AWARENESS	What is the best method for monitoring the depth of anaesthesia ?	26	22	42
56	ACCIDENTAL AWARENESS	How can accidental awareness under general anaesthesia be detected and avoided ?	39	51	29
57	ACCIDENTAL AWARENESS	What is the best way to reduce the harm caused by accidental awareness under general anaesthesia if it occurs?	82	74	84
58	LONG-TERM EFFECTS	How can anaesthetic technique and perioperative care help reduce the risk of cancer recurrence ?	19	16	28
59	LONG-TERM EFFECTS	What can be done to speed up recovery from anaesthesia?	71	71	72

60	LONG-TERM EFFECTS	What long-term harm may result from anaesthesia, in particular following repeated anaesthetics ?	9	12	2
61	ANXIETY / STRESS	How can we reduce anxiety and stress before an operation?	44	70	22
62	ANXIETY / STRESS	How can we reduce anxiety and stress at the start of an anaesthetic?	89	85	86
63	ANXIETY / STRESS	How can we reduce a patient's anxiety and stress immediately after an operation?	92	92	85
64	ANXIETY / STRESS	What can we do to help patients with needle phobia ?	88	84	88
65	ANXIETY / STRESS	Should patients routinely be offered sedation for minor procedures ?	84	90	73
66	PATIENT EXPERIENCE	How can the patient's experience before surgery be improved?	81	88	68
67	PATIENT EXPERIENCE	What should be discussed with patients before surgery, and what is the best setting for this discussion?	16	28	6
68	PATIENT EXPERIENCE	How can we better implement fasting guidelines to avoid excessive pre-operative fasting and improve the patient experience?	38	44	34
69	PATIENT EXPERIENCE	How can better information improve patients' expectations of pain after surgery?	62	68	50

70	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	What fasting guidelines should patients follow before surgery?	57	45	65
71	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can we improve medical assessment to determine the risk of harm after surgery?	45	36	59
72	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can pre-operative assessment for adults be improved?	23	20	35
73	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can patient education programmes improve outcomes after surgery?	61	59	60
74	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can weight loss programmes improve outcomes after surgery?	55	39	69
75	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can preoperative nutritional modifications improve outcomes after surgery?	51	40	62
76	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How can preoperative exercise or fitness training , including physiotherapy, improve outcomes after surgery?	3	5	3
77	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	Does treating pre-operative anaemia improve outcomes after surgery?	27	26	36
78	PREPARING FOR SURGERY	How should a patient's existing drug regime be modified before and after surgery?	37	31	46
79	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	How can we minimise the risk of physical injury in patients undergoing anaesthetic?	77	79	70

80	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	How can the anaesthetist help reduce the risk of complications after surgery ?	12	11	17
81	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	What is the best choice of intravenous fluids to improve outcomes after surgery?	20	15	32
82	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	How can we better detect and treat major bleeding ?	54	52	54
83	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	Does cardiac output monitoring improve outcomes after surgery? How can we improve cardiac output monitoring?	10	6	33
84	ANAESTHETIC PRACTICE	How can we make airway management safer?	36	32	45
85	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	What causes nausea and vomiting after surgery?	79	80	76
86	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	How can we prevent nausea and vomiting after surgery? What is the best treatment if it occurs?	30	43	20
87	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	What is the impact of nausea and vomiting after surgery on a patient's overall recovery?	90	82	92
88	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	How can we reduce complications (adverse events) after surgery?	13	17	13
89	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	Does post-operative intensive care improve outcomes in higher risk patients having major surgery?	6	7	7

90	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	How should we plan discharge from hospital after surgery, and what would help patients recover at home after discharge?	31	54	15
91	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	How can we improve patient recovery from surgery?	25	34	18
92	RECOVERING FROM SURGERY	Do enhanced recovery programmes (fast track surgery to speed up patient recovery) improve short and long-term outcomes?	4	2	14