



Anesthesiology Clin N Am  
21 (2003) xi–xii

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ANESTHESIOLOGY  
CLINICS OF  
NORTH AMERICA

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Foreword  
Ambulatory anesthesia



Lee A. Fleisher, MD  
*Consulting Editor*

The past two decades have seen a marked increase in the number and complexity of procedures performed on an outpatient basis, comprising approximately 60% to 70% of all procedures. With this growth, there has been an expansion of locations of care that are remote from the hospital, including free-standing facilities and office-based care. Even if anesthesiologists do not work in those locations, virtually all of us care for patients who will be discharged the same day as surgery, even in the hospital setting. Therefore, it is important for all anesthesiologists to understand which procedures are safe to perform in an ambulatory setting and which techniques lead to the best outcome. In this issue of the *Anesthesiology Clinics of North America*, Dr. T.J. Gan has assembled an outstanding collection of articles by leaders in the field that allows us to practice the science and art of medicine in the best manner with a focus on outcome both inside and outside the hospital setting.

The Guest Editor has been chosen for his leadership position in ambulatory anesthesia. Dr. Gan is currently Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Medical Director of the Peri-anesthetic Care Unit at Duke University. He has held a leadership position within the Society of Ambulatory Anesthesia as the Chair of the Committee on Research and is a member of the Annual Meeting Committee. He has been a leader in the area of postoperative nausea and vomiting in ambulatory patients, as demonstrated by the article he has contributed to this issue. In addition, he has a strong interest in the research of economic and pharmacologic issues related to ambulatory anesthesia.

I hope you will agree with me that Dr. Gan has produced an outstanding issue, one that begins with the past—the subspecialty of ambulatory anesthesia—and then leads us to the future.

Lee A. Fleisher, MD  
*Professor of Anesthesiology, Vice-Chair for Clinical Investigation*  
*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*  
*Baltimore, MD 21287, USA*  
*E-mail address: lfleishe@jhmi.edu*