New clinical model for predicting risk of death before surgery

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Surgeons and patients will benefit from a new clinical tool that is able to predict the likelihood of mortality before colorectal surgery according to the latest ANZ Journal of Surgery.

The article in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) publication says that colorectal surgery carries a significant mortality risk, with reported rates of one to six per cent for elective surgery and up to 22 per cent in the emergency setting.

The new predictive tool is called the Colorectal preOperative Surgical Score or CrOSS.

The new model works to appropriately triage patients for further investigations and provide efficient processes for the perioperative team who have limited resources due to overstretched public hospitals.

The ability to predict mortality risk also helps to aid informed consent and appropriate allocation in post-operative care to the intensive care unit.

The reason behind the development of the CrOSS was to refine and simplify the previous model BH 2012, which was based on a scoring system that included 30 variables, causing difficulty to be able to apply the tool in the clinic or by the bedside.

The CrOSS was successfully validated at two independent hospitals showing good discrimination and calibration.

General surgeon and co-author of the article Associate Professor Glenn Guest said that the CrOSS was a robust and simple preoperative risk model.

“The model is useful during patient counselling before surgery and to identify high-risk patients for ICU.

“However, more work is needed to validate the model with other institutions,” Associate Professor Guest said.

Read the full article

The ANZ Journal of Surgery, published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.

About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

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