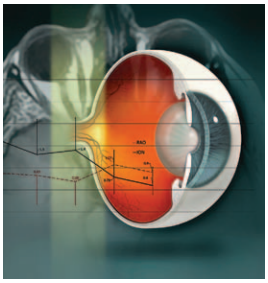
ANESTHESIOLOGY



ON THE COVER:

Perioperative ischemic optic neuropathy (ION) can cause visual loss during spinal surgery. In this issue of ANESTHESIOLOGY, Rubin *et al*. employ a large nationwide administrative hospital database to assess trends and risk factors for ION and demonstrate that perioperative ION in spinal fusion is decreasing. In an accompanying Editorial View, Todd discusses why the rate of ION might be on the decline.

- Rubin *et al*.: Perioperative Visual Loss in Spine Fusion Surgery: Ischemic Optic Neuropathy in the United States from 1998 to 2012 in the Nationwide Inpatient Sample, p. 457
- Todd: Good News: But Why Is the Incidence of Postoperative Ischemic Optic Neuropathy Falling?, p. 445

In the Nationwide Inpatient Sample for 1998 to 2012, procedure codes for spine surgery and diagnostic codes for ischemic optic neuropathy were identified. It was found that perioperative ischemic optic neuropathy in spinal fusion significantly decreased from 1998 to 2012 by about 2.7-fold. Aging, male sex, transfusion, and obesity significantly increased the risk.

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