

# ANESTHESIOLOGY



## Preoperative Cognitive Dysfunction

**\* It's More Common Than You Think**

**Cognitive impairment increases with age...**

Age Group	Cognitive Impairment (%)
70-79 yr	5%
80-89 yr	24%
90+ yr	40%

...and preoperative cognitive dysfunction is associated with adverse outcomes.

**1 in 3**  
surgical patients are 65 or older

Although many patients are at risk, the impact of cognitive impairment on elective surgery outcomes is unknown.

**Culley *et al.*<sup>1</sup> screened orthopedic patients over 65 for probable cognitive impairment using the MiniCog.**

**2 points** for drawing clock + **1 point** per word recalled = **MiniCog Score**

0-2: Positive screen  
3-5: Negative screen

**24%** of patients assessed had probable cognitive impairment.

**Probable cognitive impairment was associated with worse surgical outcomes:**

**67%**  
(vs. 34% without impairment)

Discharge other than home

**21%**  
(vs. 7% without impairment)

Postoperative delirium

**1.12**  
days  
(95% CI, 0.67-1.58)

Longer hospital stay

**These data support screening at-risk patients to identify those at high risk for adverse outcomes. Additional work is needed to define strategies to mitigate these risks.**

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1. Culley DJ, Flaherty D, Fahey MC, Rudolph JL, Javedan H, Huang C-C, Wright J, Bader AM, Hyman BT, Blacker D, Crosby G: Poor performance on a preoperative cognitive screening test predicts postoperative complications in older orthopedic surgical patients. *ANESTHESIOLOGY* 2017; 127:765-74