

THEMAL MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART

PREOPERATIVE PATIENT MANAGEMENT

Assessment

Identify risk factors for hypothermia:

Extremes of age; Major surgery on adults greater than 1 hr.; Use of general or regional anesthesia; Preexisting conditions (PVD, endocrine disease, pregnancy, burns, open wounds, etc.)

Measure patient's temperature on admission (preferred route: ORAL)

Determine patient's thermal comfort level (ask if he/she is cold)

Observe for signs/symptoms of hypothermia (shivering, piloerection, and/or cold extremities)

Normothermic (Core=36-38C/96.8-100.4F)

Institute preventative warming measures:

- Passive insulation (warm blankets, socks, head covering, and limit skin exposure)

Hypothermic (Core=Less than 36C/96.8F)

Institute active warming measures:

- Apply forced air warming system
- Apply passive insulation

INTRAOPERATIVE PATIENT MANAGEMENT

Assessment

Identify risk factors for hypothermia:

Extremes of age; Major surgery on adults greater than 1 hr.; Use of general or regional anesthesia; Preexisting conditions (PVD, endocrine disease, pregnancy, burns, open wounds, etc.)

Measure the patient's temperature

Observe for signs/symptoms of hypothermia (shivering, piloerection, and/or cold extremities)

Interventions

Passive insulation (warm blankets, socks, head covering, and limit skin exposure)

Institute active warming measures: Apply forced air warming system

Warm fluids: intravenous and irrigants

Expected Outcomes

The patient's core temperature should be maintained at 36C (96.8F) or above during the intraoperative phase unless hypothermia is indicated

POSTOPERATIVE PATIENT MANAGEMENT

Assessment

Identify risk factors for hypothermia:

Extremes of age; Major surgery on adults greater than 1 hr.; Use of general or regional anesthesia; Preexisting conditions (PVD, endocrine disease, pregnancy, burns, open wounds, etc.)

Measure patient's temperature

Determine patient's thermal comfort level every 30 minutes (ask if he/she is cold)

Observe for signs/symptoms of hypothermia (shivering, piloerection, and/or cold extremities)

Normothermic Core=36-38C/96.8-100.4F)

Institute preventative warming measures:

- Passive insulation (warm blankets, socks, head covering, and limit skin exposure)

Hypothermic (Core=Less than 36C/96.8F)

Institute active warming measures:

- Apply forced air warming system
- Apply passive insulation

