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Summary

Importance and relevance of proper pre-endoscopy assessment as the key to patient safety

UEG Week Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

Nurses

October 18, 2026

An experienced endoscopy nurse argues that proper pre-assessment is critical for patient safety and requires skilled, inquisitive questioning beyond simple yes-no checklists, performed in the right environment and at the right time.

KEY POINTS

- Pre-assessment identifies pre-existing patient conditions, potential procedural risks, and allows anticipation of preventive measures, helping classify cases as low or high risk.
- Effective pre-assessment requires nurses to ask follow-up questions beyond initial yes-no answers, as patients often do not report over-the-counter medications, herbal treatments, or inhalers because they do not consider them medicine.
- The speaker emphasizes developing the art of anticipation through years of experience, including scanning patients head-to-toe to identify undisclosed issues such as anxiety, comprehension problems, or hidden medical factors.
- Pre-assessment timing is critical; the speaker states that assessing patients 10-15 minutes before their procedure is inappropriate because they are too anxious to answer questions properly.
- The speaker recommends pre-assessment occur well before the procedure in a private environment where confidential questions can be asked, ideally with the same nurse providing continuity through the entire care episode.
- Proper pre-assessment benefits nurses by promoting critical thinking, safer practice, empathetic relationships, person-centred care, and lifelong professional development.

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