

# Risk Report

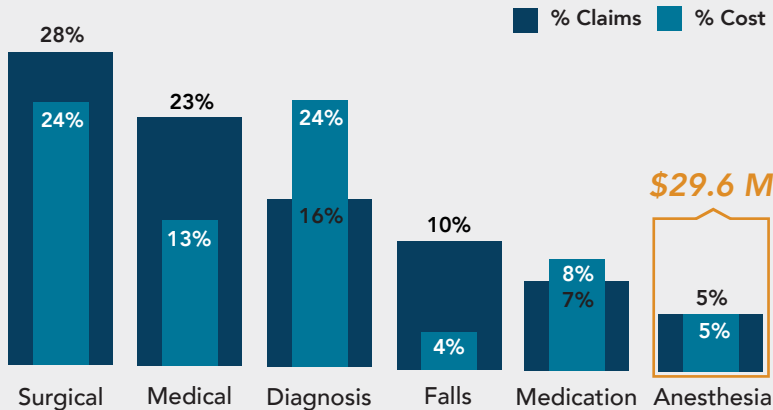


Constellation  
Together for the common good.®

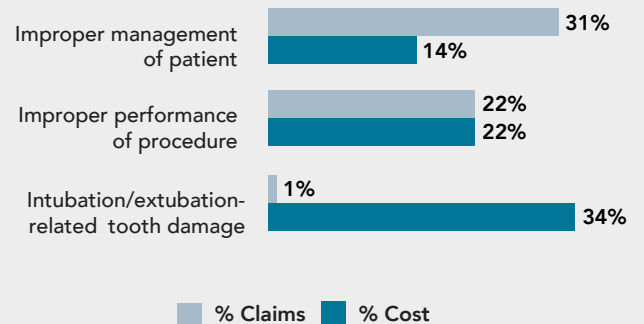
## Reducing Anesthesia Patient Harm Events

In our analysis of Constellation medical professional liability claims\*, allegations triggering anesthesia claims are **#6 in occurrence and #6 in cost**.

### Allegations Triggering All Claims



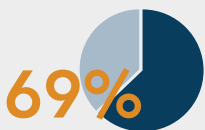
### Allegations Triggering Anesthesia Claims



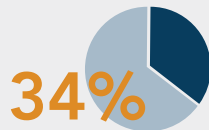
### Case Study

A 5 month old child was admitted to a children's hospital for a congenital heart procedure. Following the procedure, the child was extubated in the OR and transferred to the PICU. An hour and a half later, the child suffered a respiratory and cardiac arrest. During the resuscitation efforts, chest compressions caused dehiscence of the surgical incision with bleeding. The child was emergently taken back to the OR for repair and subsequently developed seizures due to a severe hypoxic ischemic brain injury. The child's parents filed a malpractice claim against the anesthesiologist and hospital alleging improper management of the child. The medical experts who reviewed the care were critical due to documented poor arterial blood gas readings at the time of extubation. The claim was closed with a payment.

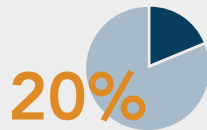
### Snapshot of Anesthesia Claims



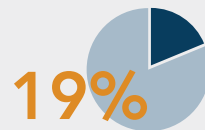
of claims involve technical skill including known procedural risks



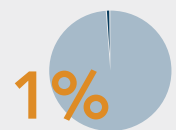
of claims involve intubation/extubation-related damage to teeth



of claims involve inadequate informed consent

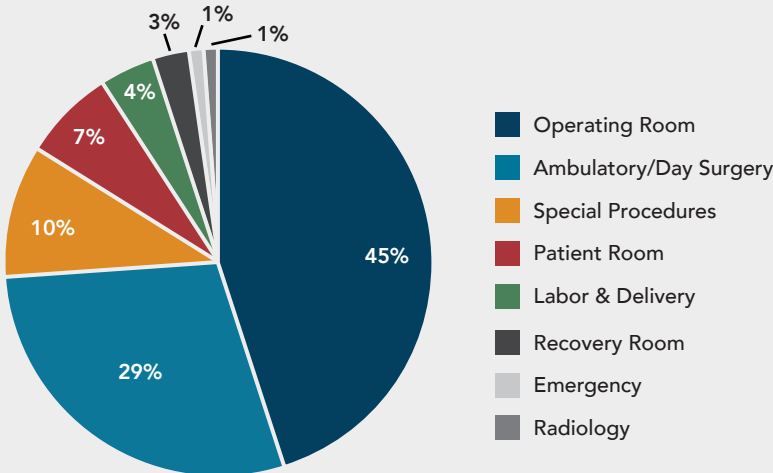


of claims involve high-severity events including permanent injury or death

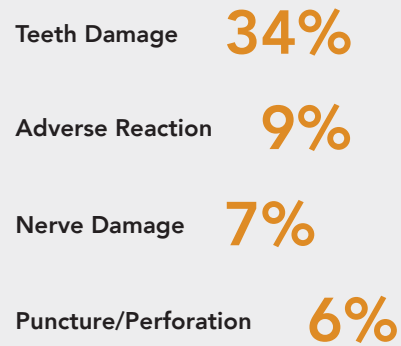


of costs are related to damage to teeth

## Locations % Claims



## Top Injuries % Claims



## Top Contributing Factors % Claims



### Did you know?

With over two-thirds of claims involving technical skill, including known procedural risks, **having effective informed consent discussions with patients using a patient-centered, shared decision-making approach can reduce unrealistic or unmet expectations** on the part of the patient.

Have a comprehensive discussion of risks (**including dental risks**), complications and benefits with the patient. Document thorough risk evaluations and informed consent discussions in the patient medical record.

These risk factors contribute to injuries/malpractice claims and are amenable to risk mitigation strategies. A single harm event may involve multiple contributing factors.

## What You Can Do to Reduce Anesthesia Harm Events

**Learn** about the causes and contributing factors to anesthesia harm events

**Use** comprehensive patient risk evaluation tools

**Enhance** communication with patients/families during the informed consent process

**Analyze** anesthesia harm events and implement strategies to reduce risk

Good for care teams. Good for business.

