

Sustainability in the Operating Room

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We receive news almost daily about environmental tragedies such as flooding, forest fires, drought, air pollution, extremes of temperature, population migration and the effects of global warming. All these in turn affect population health and wellbeing. The WHO states that the environment is responsible for almost a quarter of all disease and mortality.

Healthcare produces significant volumes of waste, consumes large amounts of energy, polluting the atmosphere and producing greenhouse gases. The paradox is that in trying to improve healthcare we are at the simultaneously causing harm.

Operating rooms contribute substantially to this burden.

I will present an overview of the issues and propose ways that both anaesthetists and operating theatre staff should be attempting to mitigate this, not just in the operating room but also in daily living.

References and resources

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