Perioperative Care of the Child with Arthrogryposis

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**Case Discussion**

Patients with AMC present with a wide variety of clinical features which must be taken into consideration prior to administering an anesthetic to ensure safe delivery of anesthesia. Clinical features include:

- **Difficult airway:** Micrognathia, high arched palate, cervical spine instability
- **Intraoperative hyperthermia:** Unclear Malignant Hyperthermia risk
- **Difficult IV access due to reduced subcutaneous tissue**
- **Difficult positioning**
- **Difficult regional blockade**
- **Myopathy:** Prolonged duration of neuromuscular blockade
- **Cardiorespiratory status:** Sensitivity to anesthetic agents and high risk of aspiration or post-operative respiratory support needs

**Conclusion**

The overall prevalence of arthrogryposis multiplex congenita is estimated at 1 in 3000 live births. Anesthesiologists need to appreciate the multiple clinical presentations and anesthetic risks to help formulate an appropriate anesthetic plan for pediatric patients presenting for multiple corrective procedures.

**References**