

## Perioperative anaphylaxis: beyond the operating room

*Arq Asma Alerg Imunol. 2023;7(4):431-2.*  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5935/2526-5393.20230065-en>

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest Geller and Wolf's letter to the editor titled "Collaboration between Allergy and Anesthesia", published in a recent issue of AAAI.<sup>1</sup>

For any patient who has experienced a perioperative hypersensitivity reaction, the safety of any subsequent exposure will depend on the coordinated action between the allergist and the anesthesiologist.

As expressed in CFM Resolution 2174/2017<sup>2</sup> and echoed by Harper<sup>3</sup>, it is the duty of the perioperative anesthesiologist to diagnose and treat any critical events, including perioperative hypersensitivity reactions in their varying degrees of severity.

This duty encompasses making a differential diagnosis with other conditions, providing prompt and appropriate with the pharmaceutical armamentarium available at hand, and informing the surgeon of the patient's true condition so they can decide together whether the procedure can continue as scheduled or should be shortened or terminated. It is also the anesthesiologist's duty to refer the patient for appropriate further care, whether in the intensive care unit or inpatient ward.

However, the work of this specialist is not done until he or she has drafted a clear, standardized report to be sent to the physician in charge of conducting the post-event workup and leading the case to its ultimate outcome: the allergist.

Garvey and Hopkins<sup>4</sup> published a timely and relevant work regarding the joint work of the allergy and anesthesiology specialties in 2019.

It is paramount that clinicians be aware of where we in Brazil stand on this topic.

In 2018, during the 45th Brazilian Congress of Allergy and Immunology in Recife, the Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (SBA) requested a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Association of Allergy and Immunology (ASBAI) to discuss joint work on the

topic of perioperative anaphylaxis, a request which was promptly and kindly granted.

Several initiatives have been undertaken since:

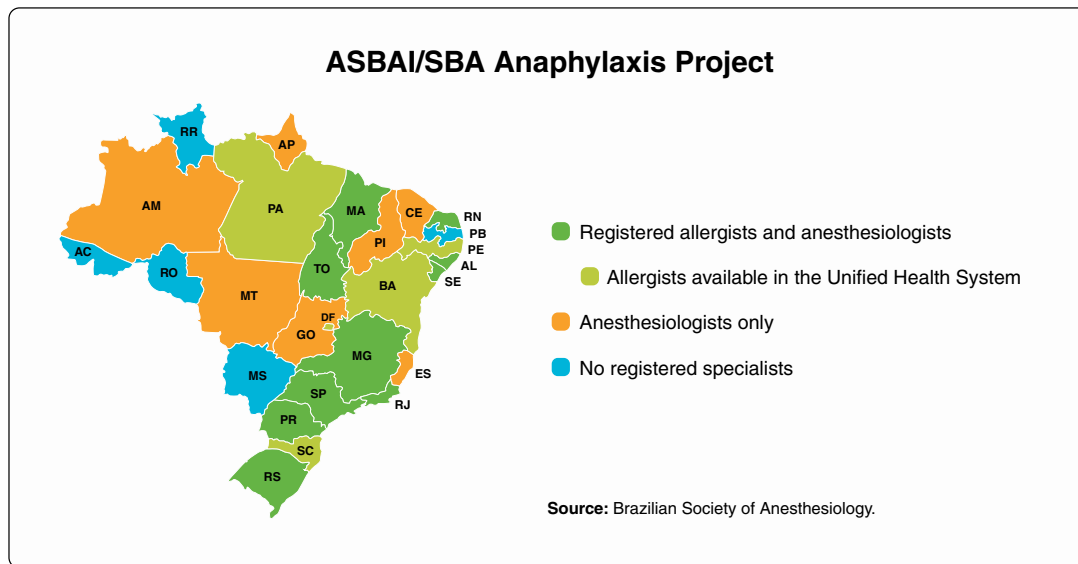
- 2018 - ASBAI and SBA meet and begin joint work.
- 2019 - A working group is established to prepare a joint ASBAI and SBA document on perioperative anaphylaxis, which becomes the Update on Perioperative Hypersensitivity Reactions.
- 2020 - The joint document is published in the journals of both societies.<sup>4-7</sup>
- 2021 - The ASBAI/SBA Anaphylaxis Project (Projeto Anafilaxia), which seeks to appoint at least one allergist and one anesthesiologist with a special interest in the topic of perioperative anaphylaxis in each state of Brazil, is created.
- 2022 - The preliminary list of experts and their locations across Brazil is published (Figure 1).
- 2023 - The Presidents and representatives of both societies meet at the SBA headquarters in Rio de Janeiro to align their goals and publish a Joint Technical Recommendation on tryptase testing.

With their Letter to the Editor focusing on such a relevant topic, Geller and Wolf provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the work being carried out jointly by ASBAI and SBA.

Further activities are already in the pipeline for 2024.

### References

1. Geller M, Wolff PG. Collaboration between Allergy and Anesthesia. *Arq Asma Alergia Imunol.* 2023;7(3):319-20.
2. Brasil. Conselho Federal de Medicina – CFM. Resolução CFM 2174/2017. Available from: <https://www.sbahq.org/documentos/resolucao-cfm-2174-2017/>. Accessed Dec 05 2023.
3. Hepner NJN, Cook TM, Garcez T, Lucas DN, Thomas M, Kemp H, et al. Anaesthesia, surgery, and life-threatening allergic reactions: management and outcomes in the 6th National Audit Project (NAP6). *Br J Anaesth.* 2018;121(1):172-88.
4. Spindola MAC, Solé D, Aun MV, Azi LMTA, Bernd LAG, Garcia DB, et al. Atualização sobre reações de hipersensibilidade perioperatória: document conjunto da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia (SBA) e Associação Brasileira de Alergia e Imunologia (ASBAI) - Parte I: tratamento e orientação pós crise. *Arq Asma Alerg Imunol.* 2019;3(4):363-81.



**Figure 1**  
Distribution of specialists across Brazil

5. Solé D, Spindola MAC, Aun MV, Azi LMTA, Bernd LAG, Garcia DB, et al. Atualização sobre reações de hipersensibilidade perioperatória: Documento conjunto da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia e Associação Brasileira de Alergia e Imunologia - Parte II: etiologia e diagnóstico. *Arq Asma Alerg Imunol.* 2020;4(1):35-60.
6. Spindola MAC, Solé D, Aun MV, Azi LMTA, Bernd LAG, Garcia DB, et al. Atualização sobre reações de hipersensibilidade perioperatória: documento conjunto da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia (SBA) e Associação Brasileira de Alergia e Imunologia (ASBAI) - Parte I: tratamento e orientação pós crise. *Rev Bras Anestesiol.* 2020;70(5):534-48.
7. Solé D, Spindola MAC, Aun MV, Azi LMTA, Bernd LAG, Garcia DB, et al. Atualização sobre reações de hipersensibilidade perioperatória: documento conjunto da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia (SBA) e Associação Brasileira de Alergia e Imunologia (ASBAI) - Parte II: etiologia e diagnóstico. *Rev Bras Anestesiol.* 2020;70(6):642-61.

No conflicts of interest declared concerning the publication of this letter.

**Maria Anita Costa Spíndola**  
**Maria Angela Tardelli**  
**Jedson dos Santos Nascimento**  
**Marcos Antonio Costa de Albuquerque**  
**Luís Antonio dos Santos Diego**

Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (SBA)

**Fábio Kuschnir**  
**Ekaterini Goudouris**  
**Norma Rubini**  
**Albertina Varanda Capelos**  
**Dirceu Solé**

Brazilian Association of Allergy and Immunology (ASBAI)