



WFSA
WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF
ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS

Uniting and empowering anaesthesiologists around the world to improve patient care

DECLARATION ON PATIENTS' RIGHTS TO LABOUR ANALGESIA

There are 140 million births per year globally, mostly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) where the vast majority of pregnant patients do not have access to labour analgesia. WHO emphasizes the necessity of high-quality, respectful maternity care and champions women's right to a safe and positive experience during pregnancy and childbirth, regardless of the circumstances.

During childbirth it should be unacceptable for laboring patients to experience untreated severe pain that is amenable to safe interventions. Untreated pain can have serious consequences for both maternal and fetal wellbeing.

Availability and accessibility of labour analgesia is disproportionately lacking in LMICs. This inequity underscores an urgent need to democratize pain management solutions, ensuring that every pregnant patient, irrespective of their geographical or economic position, has the right to opt for pain relief during labour, if they so desire.

The WFSA acknowledges the essential role of anesthesiologists in providing labour analgesia. This has also been emphasized in the context of the acute pain call for action, which encourages national health planning for effective acute pain management.

Anaesthesiologists' expertise empowers pregnant patients by offering them choices in managing labor pain and also enhances the safety and security of obstetric patients across the globe.

The WFSA emphasizes the right of every pregnant patient to receive analgesia for labour pain upon request.

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