Pain and minimization of side-effects such as sedation, nausea and vomiting. Inadequate analgesia is a problem in post-operative period, the most common cause being under-treatment.

The growth of day care surgery requires both, a rapid return to street fitness and the provision of analgesia appropriate to the nature of surgery undertaken. Balanced analgesia in day care surgery commonly involves intraoperative administration of short-acting opioids and wound-infiltration with local anaesthetic supplemented in postoperative period by an oral non-opioid analgesic. Recent improvements in pharmacological knowledge concerning pain medication have made it possible to provide more individualized pain treatments for adults and children.

References:

The continued growth of outpatient surgery has created new potential roles for the anesthesiologist which seemingly demands skills in addition to "giving a good anesthetic." The increased interest in cost-containment, limited resources and growing concerns about patient outcomes will require anesthesiologists to continually assess the cost to benefit ratio of each facet of their anesthetic practice. It has been suggested that purchasers of health care might seek to obtain "value based care essentially the best patient outcome achievable at a reasonable cost." Objective evaluations of each facet of our practice must be performed as an integrated package if health care provider groups are to remain economically viable. For example, excessive concern over drug acquisition costs, to the exclusion of the impact of the drug acquisition costs on clinical outcomes, may be penny-wise but pound-foolish.

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