



The Association of CardioThoracic Anaesthetists and Critical Care (ACTACC) executive committee have discussed the role of Anaesthetic Associates in Cardiothoracic anaesthetic practice. This is a sensitive subject especially as we are aware of at least one Cardiac centre where Anaesthetic Associates have been employed and utilised during anaesthesia for Cardiac surgery. However, we have reached the following decision by an overwhelming majority:

Anaesthesia for CardioThoracic surgery is a highly specialised area of practice. The majority of our patients have significant co-morbidity and reduced functional capabilities, reflected with ASA scores 3 or above. The surgery itself is complicated, highly stressful and in a demanding environment reliant on advanced invasive monitoring, complicated airway and ventilation strategies, and advanced regional anaesthetic techniques. The ACTACC executive committee therefore takes the position that there is not a role for Anaesthetic Associates in CardioThoracic anaesthesia.

The focus for ACTACC is to identify the next generation of Cardiac and Thoracic anaesthetists, to develop the necessary resources, including fellowships, to facilitate and support their training and therefore ensure that we have a robust foundation for succession planning in our specialty.

Yours sincerely

Mark Steven

President of ACTACC