

# Beyond Emergence: Understanding Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction (POCD)

POCD has historically been limited to scientific observation and research whereas the spectrum of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and dementia in the general (non-surgical) population has evolved into well-defined clinical, functional and prognostic constructs<sup>1</sup>.

The cause of POCD is unclear but it has some consistent associations:



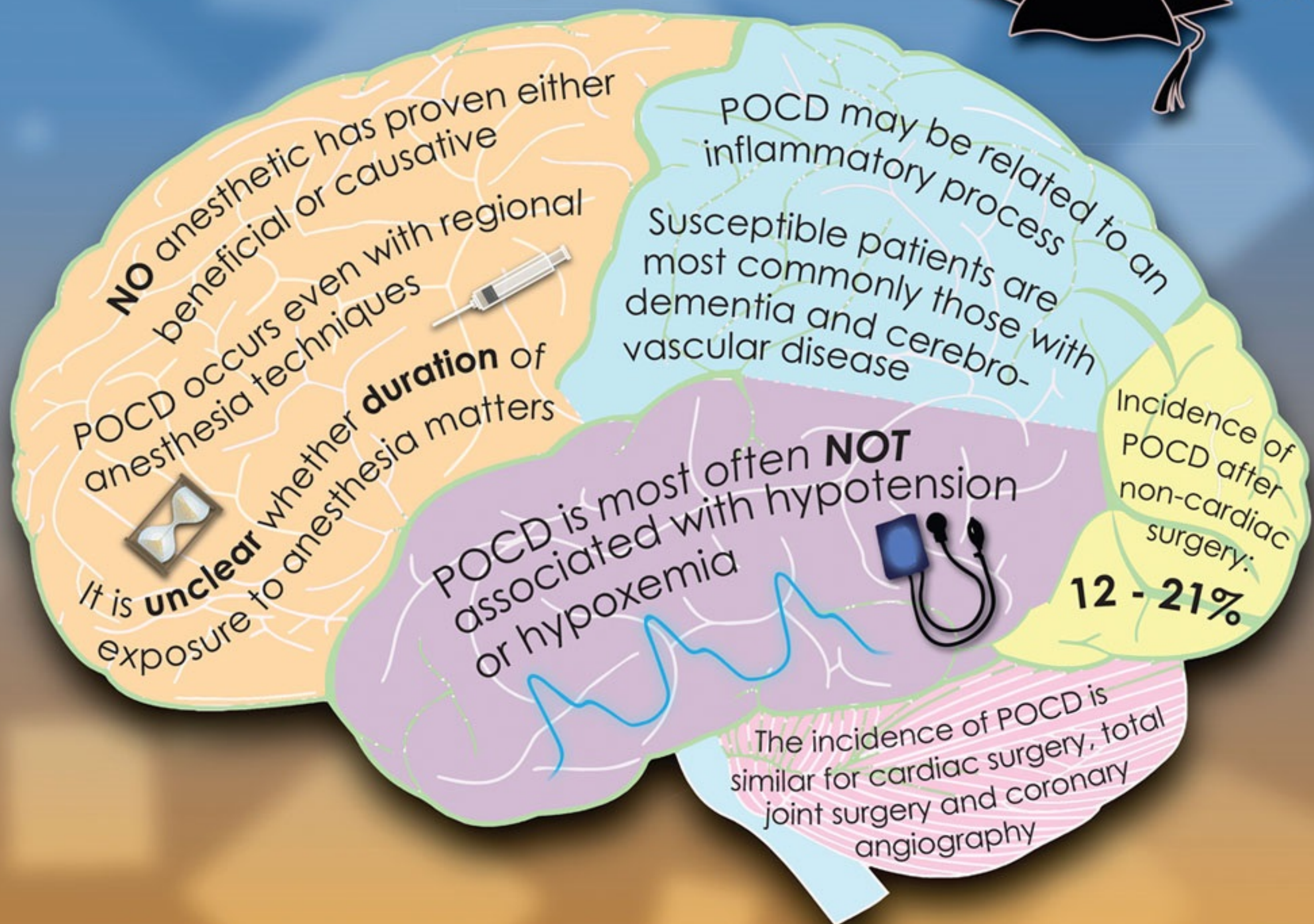
Age



Preexisting  
MCI



Fewer  
years of  
education



A multidisciplinary international working group established in 2015 recommends incorporating the nomenclature for cognitive decline as used in other disciplines into the perioperative period. They recommend the term **perioperative neurocognitive disorder**.