

# Perioperative Care of the Obese Patients

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Physiologic changes in obesity
- Preoperative Care
- Intraoperative Care
- Postoperative care





# Introduction

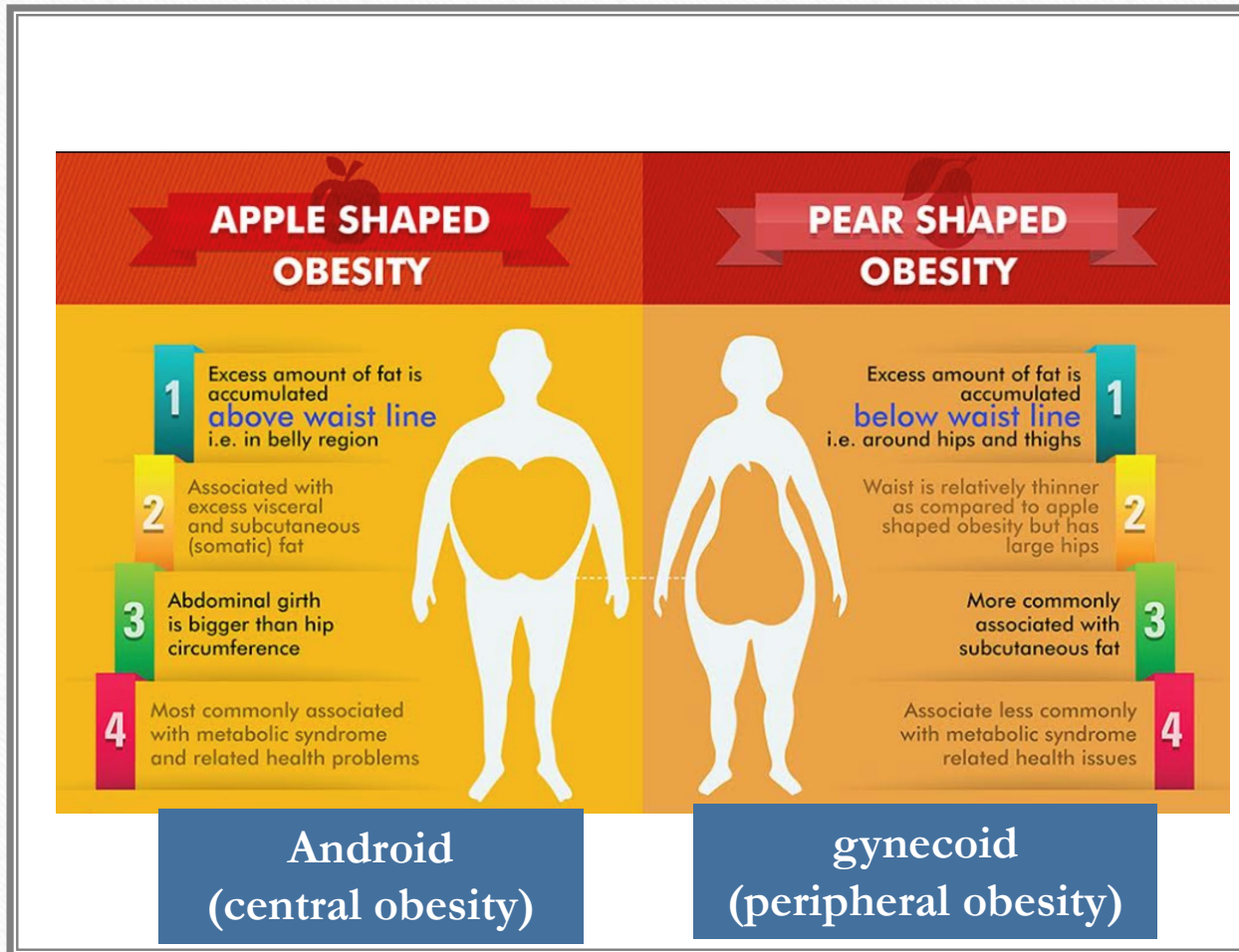
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# Classification of obesity

BMI	Classification	WHO
18.5-24.9	Normal	
25.0-29.9	Overweight	
30.0-34.9	Obesity	Obesity class I
35.0-39.9		Obesity class II
40.0-49.9	Morbid obesity	Obesity class III
$\geq 50$	Super obesity	
$\geq 60$	Super-super obesity	

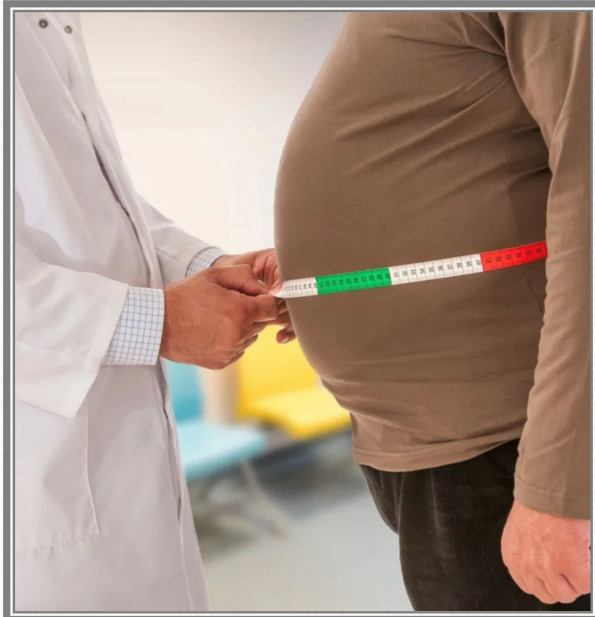


# Fat Distribution



- Increase perioperative risk
- More likely to exhibit the metabolic syndrome; central obesity, HT, insulin resistance and DLP

# Fat Distribution: Central obesity



Waist  
circumference

- $>88$  cm in women
- $>102$  cm in men

Waist to  
height ratio

- $> 0.55$



# Physiologic Changes in Obesity

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# Physiological changes in obesity

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Respiratory  
System

Cardiovascular  
System

Gastrointestinal  
System

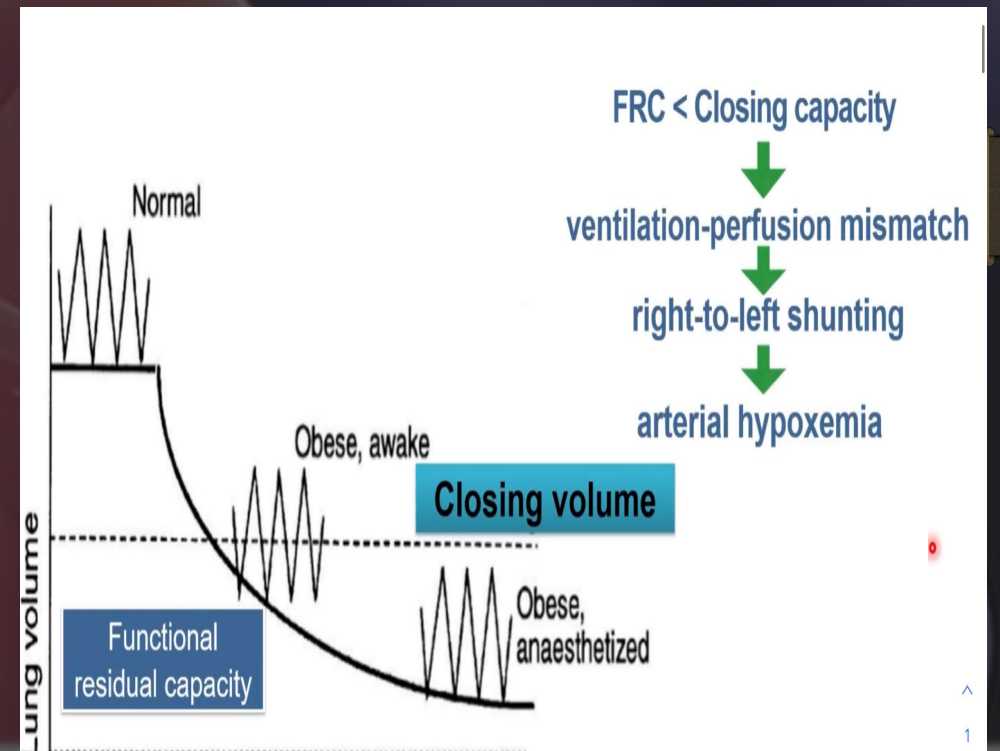
Endocrine  
System

Thrombosis

# Respiratory System

Arterial oxygen levels decrease rapidly after cessation of breathing

- **Reduced functional residual capacity(FRC)**
- Significant atelectasis
- Increase in resting metabolic rate, working of breathing and minute oxygen demand



# Respiratory System

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## Sleep-disordered breathing :

- **Obstructive sleep apnea(OA)**
- **Obesity hypoventilation syndrome(OHS)**

## Associated with :

- **Difficult airway and laryngoscopy**
- **Increase the sensitivity to opioid-induced respiratory depression**
- **Increase incidence of postoperative desaturation and respiratory failure**
- **Postoperative cardiac events**



## Physiological change in OSA

### Hypoxemia

- Increased risk of IHD and CVD
- Secondary polycythemia

### Hypercapnia

- Desensitization of respiratory center to hypercapnia with result in respiratory failure

### Pulmonary vasoconstriction

- Pulmonary hypertension
- Right ventricular failure ( cor pulmonale)

Untreated  
OSA may  
progress to  
OHS

- Progressive desensitization of the respiratory centers to (nocturnal) hypercapnia
- Episodes of apnea without respiratory effort
- **Clinical triad of OHS**
  - **Obesity(BMI) > 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>**
  - **Sleep-disordered breathing (usually OSA)**
  - **Daytime hypercapnia (PaCO<sub>2</sub> > 45 mmHg)**

# Preoperative diagnosis and appropriate management of OSA

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- Less postoperative sleep deprivation
- Improve response to analgesic and anesthetic drugs
- Normalization of cardiovascular disturbances

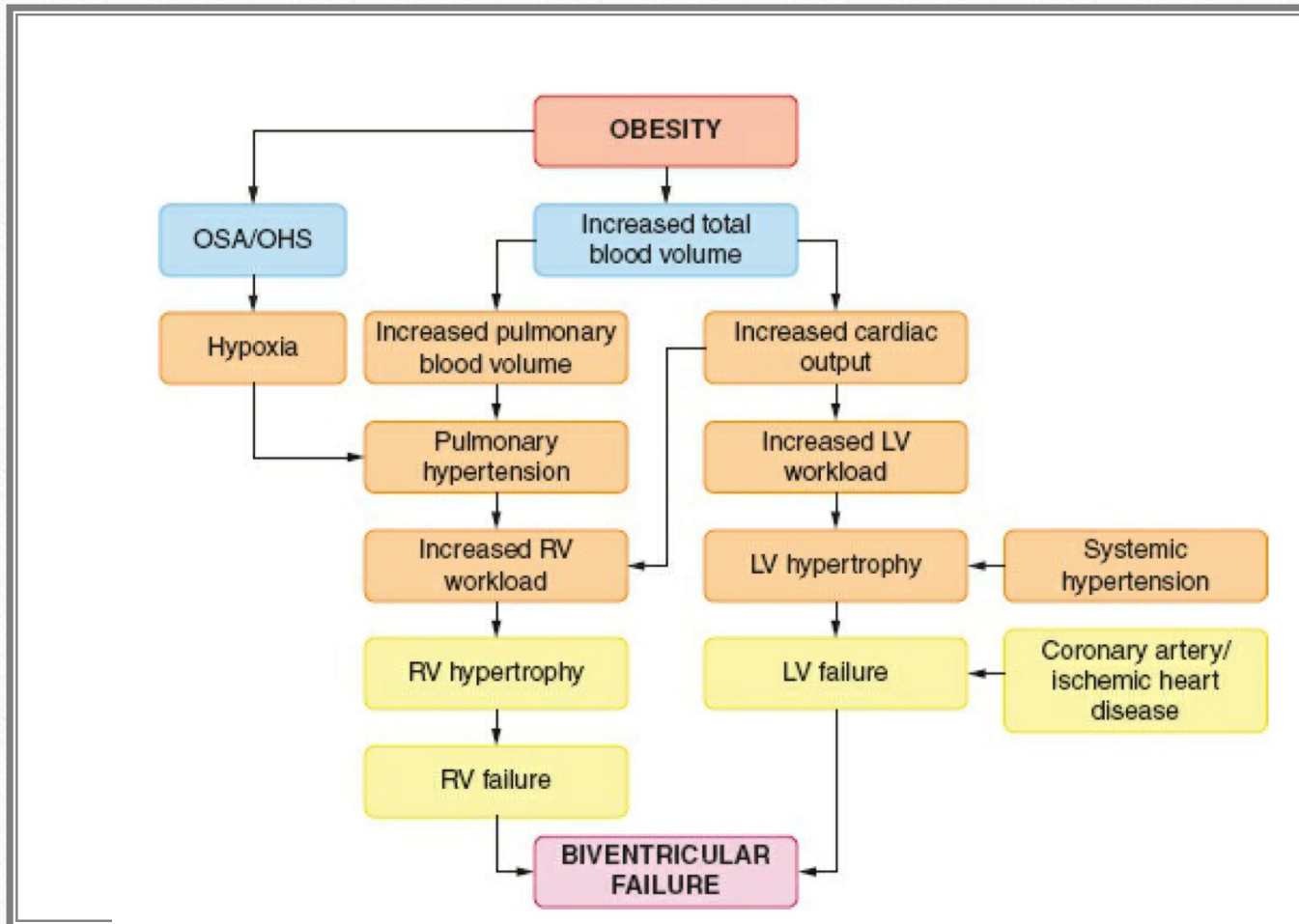


# Cardiovascular System

The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface. On the left, there is a faint, light-colored silhouette of a human torso. On the right, there is a large, dark red heart shape. A white ECG (heart rate) line is overlaid on the heart and extends across the middle of the slide. The title 'Cardiovascular System' is centered at the top in a white, serif font. Below the title is a horizontal white line. A list of bullet points is positioned to the left of the heart, with each item starting with a small green dot.

- Obesity is associated with a number of cardiac risk factors
  - HT
  - Ischemic heart disease(IHD)
  - Cardiomyopathy
  - Cardiac failure arrhythmias
  - Sudden cardiac death
  - Cerebrovascular disease
  - Peripheral vascular disease

# Pathphysiology of Cardiomyopathy





# Gastrointestinal System

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- The volume and acidity of gastric contents is often increased, always considered as **full stomach**
  - **Increase risk of aspiration**
  - Sufficient NPO time
  - Aspiration prophylaxis
- **High risk esp. GERD, chronic gastritis, hiatus hernia and gastroparesis**



# Endocrine System

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## Impaired glucose tolerance

- High prevalence of type II DM

## Hyperglycemia, insulin resistance, and DM

- wound infections
- increased risk of myocardial infarction

## Exogenous insulin

- oppose the catabolic response to surgery

# Metabolic Syndrome

Wrist circumference : Men  $> 102$  cm, Women  $> 88$  cm

Plus 2/4 of

Triglyceride  $> 150$  mg/dl

HDL : Men  $< 40$  mg/dl ,women  $< 50$  mg/dl

BP  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg or use of medication

Fasting glucose  $\geq 110$  mg/dl or use of medication



# Metabolic Syndrome

## Impaired glucose tolerance

- disturbance of the autonomic nervous system
- abnormal adrenergic reflexes in 25% of patients

## Metabolic syndrome is predictor of postoperative complications

- Pulmonary eg. atelectasis, pneumonia, ARDS, respiratory failure
- Cardiac adverse events
- AKI



# Thrombosis

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- Obesity is a **pro-thrombotic state**
- Associated with thrombotic disorders such as **MI, stroke and VTE**
- **Hypercoagulable state may extend beyond 2 weeks**, warranting extended postoperative VTE prophylaxis depending on the type of surgery and the patient's BMI

# Thromboprophylaxis

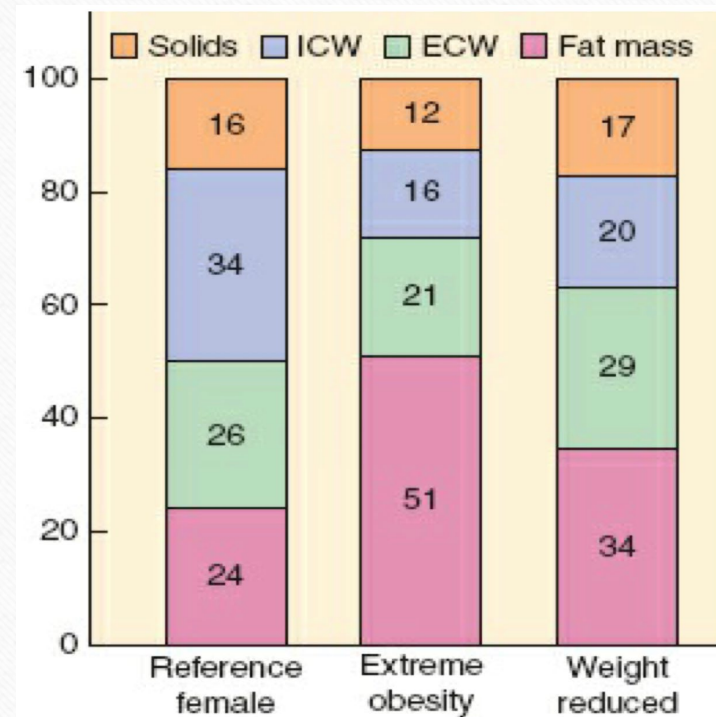
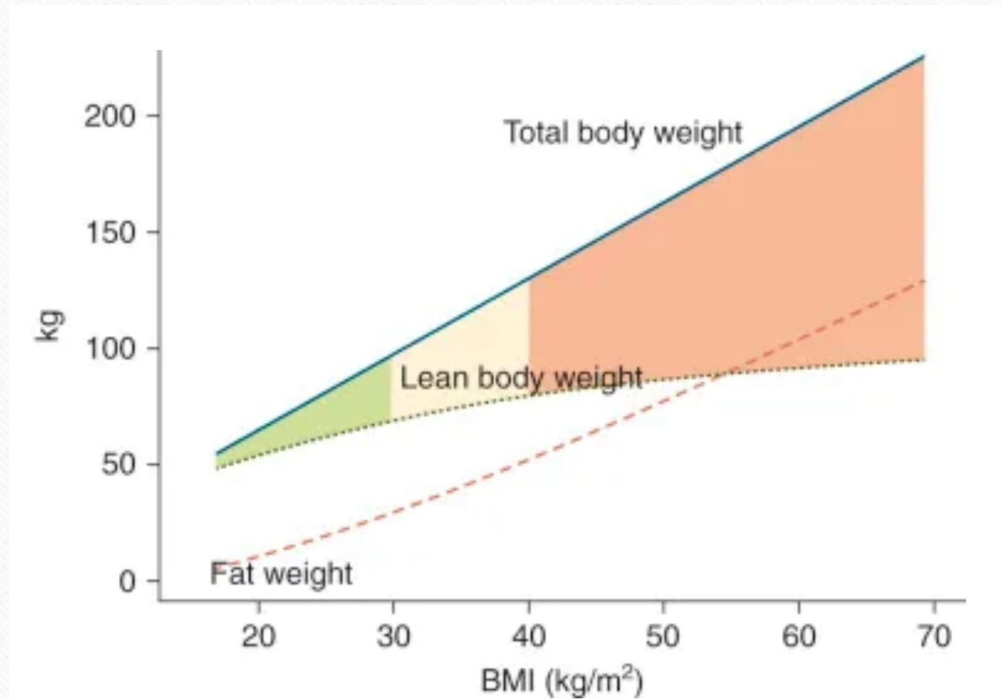
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- Appropriated sized compression stockings
- Unfractionated heparin
- LMWH





# Pharmacologic Principles



Clinical Anesthesia, Eight Edition, Paul G Barash



- **Ideal body weight (IBW) - what the patient should weigh with a normal ratio of lean to fat mass. Varies height and sex:**

$$\text{IBW (kg)} = \text{height (cm)} - x$$

(where  $x = 105$  in females and  $100$  in males)

- **Lean body weight (LBW) - patient's weight excluding fat. Most widely used formula is that of Janmahasatian et al.**

$$\text{LBW (kg)} = \frac{9270 \times \text{TBW (kg)}}{6680 + (216 \times \text{BMI (kg.m}^{-2}\text{)})} \text{ (men)}$$

$$\text{LBW (kg)} = \frac{9270 \times \text{TBW (kg)}}{8780 + (244 \times \text{BMI (kg.m}^{-2}\text{)})} \text{ (women)}$$

**Regardless of TBW, LBW rarely exceeds 100 kg in men and 70 kg in women**



Drug	Dosing	Practical Anesthesia Key Points
Thiopental	Induction: LBW (somewhat increased)	Increased initial dose due to increased blood volume, cardiac output, muscle mass Rapid distribution from plasma to periphery Increased absolute dose Prolonged duration of action due to high lipophilicity and increased VD Longer elimination half-life
Propofol	Induction: LBW (somewhat increased) Maintenance infusion: TBW	Short duration of action due to rapid redistribution Highly lipophilic Cardiac output is major determinant of peak plasma concentration Increased VD at steady state and increased clearance prevent increases in elimination half-life Total clearance and VD at steady state correlate with TBW during maintenance infusion Negative cardiovascular effects High affinity for fat and well-perfused organs High hepatic extraction and conjugation relate to TBW
Succinylcholine	TBW	Pseudocholinesterase activity increases linearly with increasing weight and large extracellular fluid compartment Dose of succinylcholine should be increased
Rocuronium	LBW	Dosing according to LBW to prevent delayed recovery due to increased VD Faster onset and longer duration when dosed according to TBW Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics not altered in obese female patients
Vecuronium	LBW	Prolonged action when dosed according to TBW Dosing according to LBW to prevent delayed recovery due to increased VD and impaired hepatic clearance Obesity does not alter distribution or elimination of the drug
Atracurium	LBW	VD, absolute clearance, and elimination half-life unchanged by obesity Unchanged dose per unit body weight without prolongation of recovery because of organ function-independent elimination
Cis-atracurium	LBW	Pharmacokinetics similar to atracurium but prolonged duration of action when dosed according to TBW
Benzodiazepines		Highly lipophilic drugs with larger VD in obese patients result in longer duration of action Midazolam has potential for prolonged sedation because larger initial doses are required to achieve adequate serum concentrations



Fentanyl	LBW	<p>Measured total body clearance has a nonlinear relationship to TBW and overestimates plasma concentration</p> <p>Fentanyl dosing based on a derived LBW or "pharmacokinetic mass" model correlates better with clearance than TBW dosing</p> <p>Dosing based on TBW overestimates dose requirements in the obese patient</p>
Sufentanil	LBW	<p>Highly lipid soluble</p> <p>Increased VD and prolonged elimination half-life, which correlates with degree of obesity</p> <p>Distributes extensively in excess body fat</p> <p>Similar pharmacokinetic parameters in obese and nonobese predict similar plasma concentrations</p> <p>Overestimation of plasma concentration occurs in the morbidly obese range (BMI &gt;40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</p>
Remifentanil	LBW	<p>Pharmacokinetics similar in obese and nonobese patients (i.e., more closely related to lean body mass than LBW)</p> <p>Systemic clearance and VD corrected per kilogram of TBW are significantly smaller in the obese patient; consider age and LBW for dosing</p>
Dexmedetomidine	TBW	<p>Highly selective <math>\alpha_2</math>-adrenergic agonist</p> <p>Sedative-hypnotic, anesthetic-sparing analgesic, sympatholytic properties</p> <p>Lacks significant effects on respiration</p> <p>Ideal analgesic adjuvant in the morbidly obese patient</p> <p>As part of a balanced anesthetic, infusion rates of 0.2–0.7 <math>\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{hr}</math> produce clinically effective sedation with decreased analgesic and anesthetic requirements</p>
Neostigmine	TBW	<p>Prompt early reversal but delayed full recovery during neostigmine-induced reversal of vecuronium dosed according to TBW</p>
Sugammadex	TBW	<p>A modified <math>\gamma</math>-cyclodextrin compound that encapsulates rocuronium (and other steroid-based neuromuscular blockers to a lesser extent)</p> <p>May prove invaluable for more rapid and complete neuromuscular blockade reversal in obese patients</p>



## Review

# Perioperative care of the obese patient

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# Preoperative Care

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# Preoperative Care

A top-down view of medical supplies on a red surface. A black stethoscope is coiled across the center. To its right are a pair of black-rimmed glasses, a light blue surgical mask, and a grey spiral notebook with a pen. A white glove is partially visible in the upper right corner. The entire scene is set against a dark red background with a white border.

- 
- Comprehensive medical management
  - Equipment and monitoring
  - Airway evaluation
  - Preanesthesia medications

# Comprehensive Medical Management

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## Weight loss

- improve hypertension, DLP and insulin resistance

## Low-calorie diets

- reduced the size of the liver
- improves liver retraction and access to the gastroesophageal junction during bariatric surgery

## Tobacco and alcohol stopped at least 4 weeks

- Decrease risk of postoperative complication



# Comprehensive Medical Management

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CPAP at least 4 weeks

- particularly if OSAS is severe or OHS

Oral hypoglycemic : discontinued 1–2 days

- restarted when patients resume eating.

Long-acting insulin

- switched to an intermediate-acting form 1–2 days

# Comprehensive Medical Management

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Obesity itself is not an independent predictor of pulmonary aspiration

- Routine aspiration prophylaxis is unnecessary

Prophylaxis when risk factors are present

- GERD, increased gastric volume, anticipated difficult airway

Oral carbohydrate conditioning

- before major abdominal surgery has metabolic and clinical benefits



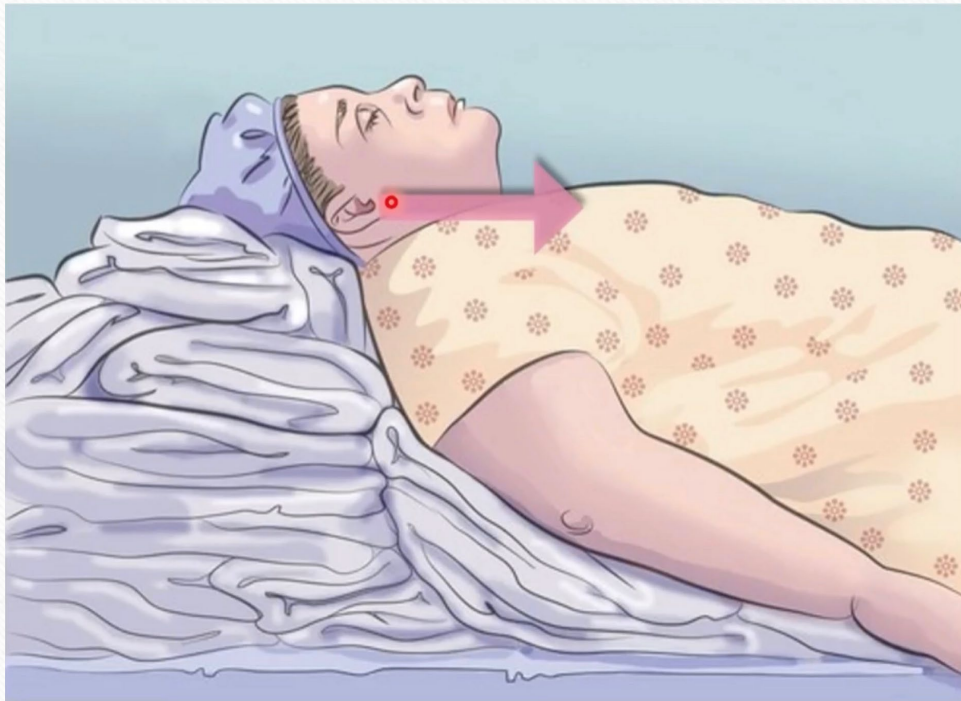
# Equipment and Monitoring

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- Ramping device
- Difficult airway equipments
- Large BP cuff
- Depth of anesthesia and NMBD monitoring

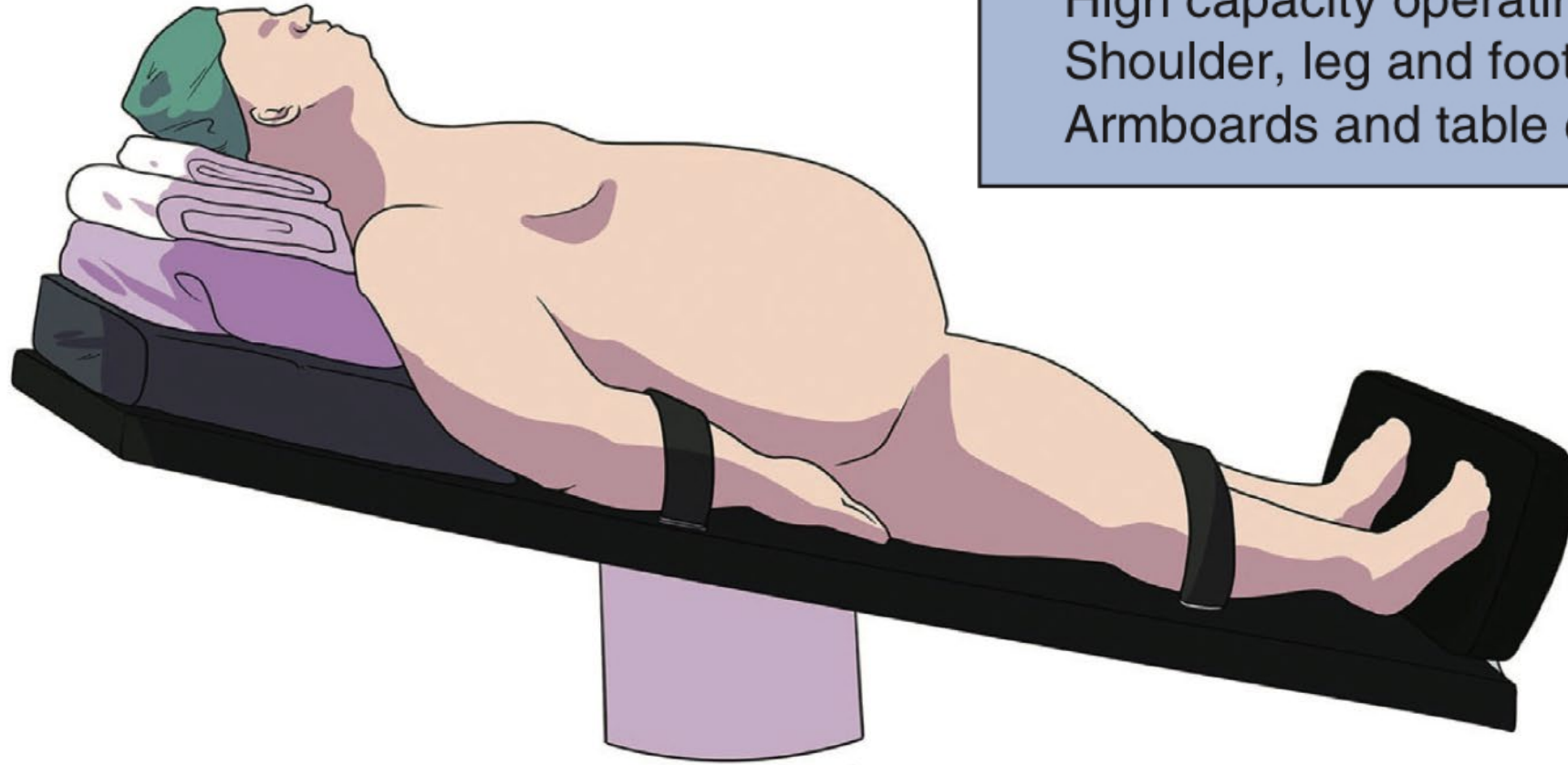
# Ramp device

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## Equipment and Monitoring



### **Bariatric operating table**

High capacity operating table

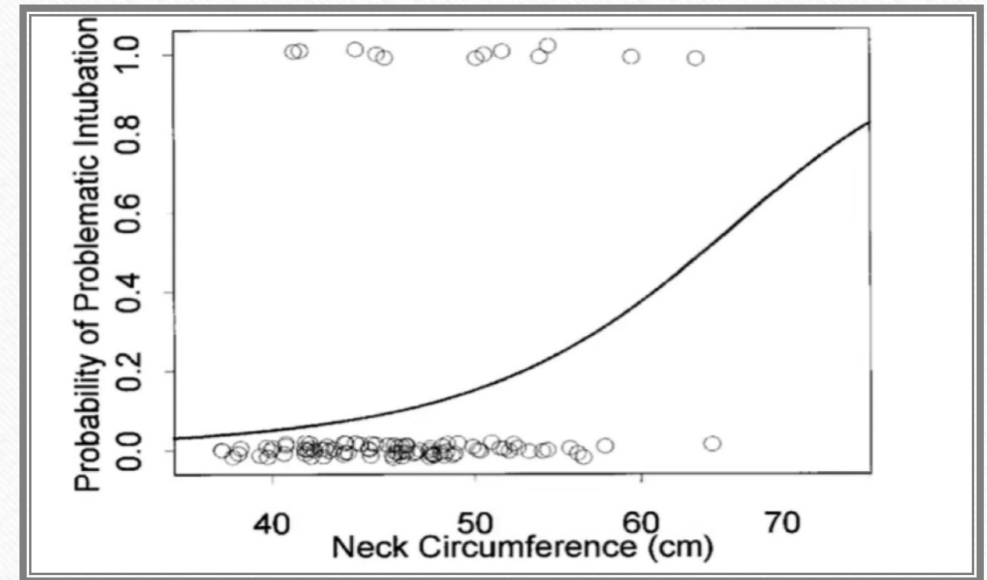
Shoulder, leg and foot supports

Armboards and table extensions

# Airway Evaluation

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- BMI by itself is not a predictor of difficult intubation
- Problematic intubation
  - increased age
  - male sex
  - temporomandibular joint pathology
  - Mallampati classes 3 and 4
  - OSA
  - abnormal upper teeth.





# STOP-BANG

Item	Question
1. Snoring	Do you snore loudly (louder than talking or loud enough to be heard through closed doors)?
2. Tired	Do you often feel tired, fatigued or sleepy during the daytime?
3. Observed	Has anyone observed you stop breathing during your sleep?
4. Blood Pressure	Are you being, or have been, treated for high blood pressure?
5. Body mass index	Is your body mass index $> 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ?
6. Age	Are you $> 50$ years old?
7. Neck circumference	Is your neck circumference $> 40 \text{ cm}$ ?
8. Gender	Are you male?

scores of  $\geq 3$  implies significant risk of OSA  
scores of  $\geq 5$  implies very high likelihood of OSA

# Polysomnography

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Severity	AHI
Mild	5-15
Moderate	15-30
Severe	>30

- **Apnea-hypopnea index(AHI)** : total No. of episodes of apnea and hypopnea per hour
- **Severe OSA** :rapid and severe desaturation at induction, CPAP or BiPAP for 6-12 wks before surgery
- **Moderate or severe OSA** : baseline PaO<sub>2</sub>, PaCO<sub>2</sub> and bicarbonate are determined
- **CPAP > 10** : potential for difficult mask ventilation



## Suspected OHS patient

- Screening using STOP-Bang questionnaire
- SpO<sub>2</sub> and serum HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> level

### High risk for OHS

- STOP-Bang  $\geq 3$
- SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90%
- Elevated HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

Major elective surgery

### Consider referral to sleep medicine

- Polysomnography
  - PAP therapy titration
- Consider echocardiogram to assess RV dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension

Emergency surgery

### Perioperative OHS precautions

- Potential difficult airway
- Rapid emergence
- Opioid-induced ventilatory impairment
- Postextubation PAP therapy

### Low risk for OHS

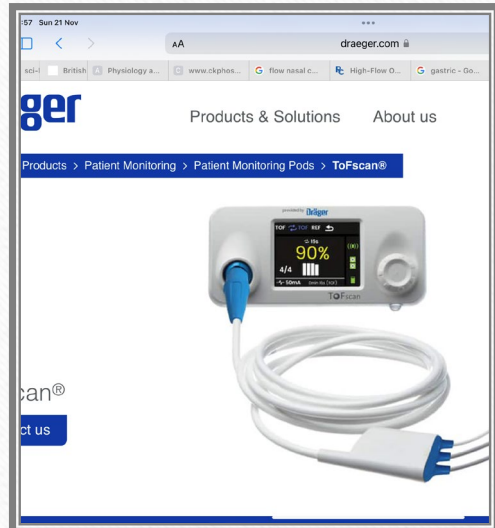
- STOP-Bang < 3
- SpO<sub>2</sub> > 90%
- Normal HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>

Routine management



# Equipment and Monitoring

- **Bispectral index** : TIVA or  $\text{ETCO}_2$  are not monitored during inhalation anesthesia
- **TOF** : reduced of residual muscle weakness



# Preanesthesia Medications

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- **Multimodal approach to PONV prophylaxis**
  - Combination of dexamethasone, ondansetron and haloperidol
    - Significant reduce PONV
    - Resue antiemetic use after laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy
- **Oral pregabalin and gabapentin** : postoperative pain prophylaxis
- **Melatonin** : improve pain the day after surgery

# Preanesthesia Medications

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- VTE prophylaxis

- Mechanical method : stockings, sequential alternating compressive devices
- Chemoprophylaxis : low-dose subcutaneous unfractionated heparin or LMWH
- early postoperative mobilization
- obese patients with a high risk of VTE (men, older age, high BMI, OSAS, OHS, previous VTE)




# Preanesthesia Medications

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- **Oral benzodiazepines** : little or no respiratory depression
- If intravenous midazolam is used : closely monitored, with supplementary oxygen immediately available
- **Ketamine plus clonidine or dexmedetomidine** : minimal adverse respiratory effects





# Intraoperative Care

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# Intraoperative Care

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Anesthetic management

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Analgesia

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Neuromuscular blockade

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Intraoperative lung ventilation

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Fluid and temperature management



# Anesthetic Management

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- In elective obese patient with no other risk factors for aspiration
- Rapid sequence induction
  - symptomatic GERD
  - gastrointestinal disorders
  - emergency surgery
- The risk and benefits of RSI and cricoid pressure should be weighted
  - Rapid desaturation during apnea
  - Cricoid pressure seems to make intubation more problematic

# Anesthetic Management

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- Propofol
  - ideally guided by bispectral index monitoring.
  - Propofol dosing based on LBW may avoid hypotension

# Neuromuscular blockade

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- Both succinylcholine and rocuronium
  - rapidly achieve favorable intubation conditions
- succinylcholine
  - reduce the safe apnea period
- rocuronium followed by reversal with sugammadex
  - earlier re-establishment of spontaneous ventilation



# Anesthetic Management

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- **Desflurane : best option**
  - low lipophilicity and solubility limit distribution in adipose tissues
  - **faster emergence and recovery**
  - better early postoperative oxygenation and lung function than propofol anesthesia
- No differences between desflurane and propofol
  - incidence of rhabdomyolysis
  - postoperative cognitive dysfunction in older obese patients

# Analgesia

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- Multimodal analgesia

- Dexamethasone
- Acetaminophen
- NSAIDS
- Ketamine
- $\alpha$ -2 agonists (clonidine, dexmedetomidine)
- Local anesthetic wound infiltration
- TAP block
- If intraoperative opioids are required, a short-acting opioid is preferred for obese patient

# Intraoperative Lung Ventilation

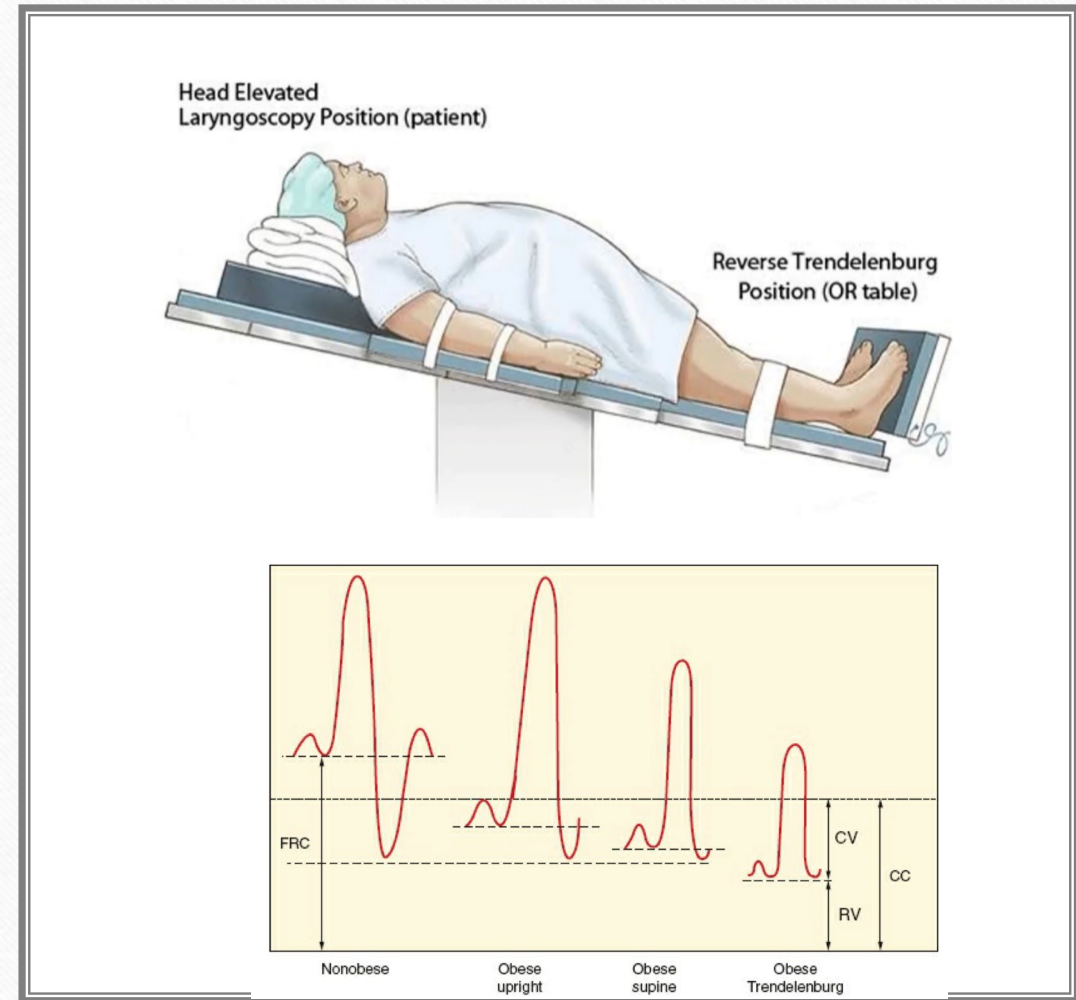
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- Decrease O<sub>2</sub> reserve and increase basal O<sub>2</sub> requirement lead to rapid desaturation
- Normally pre-oxygenation with 100% O<sub>2</sub> via a tight-fitting facemask
  - 3 min at TV ventilation
  - 8 vital capacity breaths within 60 sec
- Increase Safe Apnea Period(SAP) to 8-10 min in non-obese patients, but by only 2-3 min in obese patients



# How to increase “Safe Apnea Period” (SAP)

Ideal position for morbid obese patient  
“Reverse Trendelenburg”



# How to increase “Safe Apnea Period”(SAP)

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- Preoxygenation until end tidal oxygen > 0.9
- Apply of CPAP 5-10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O during preoxygenation following by 5-10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O PEEP during face mask ventilation
- Minimize induction to ventilation interval
- During apnea, SAP can be increased by passive oxygenation “apnea oxygenation : nasal canula, HFNC, buccal RAE tube

# How to increase “Safe Apnea Period”(SAP)

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- Preoxygenation with CPAP:
  - Increase SAP 50 %
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation supraglottic devices before ETT
  - Increase SAP 50% compared with preoxygenation with CPAP
- Buccal oxygen delivery
  - Increase SAP 2.5 folds





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# Recent advances in anesthesia of the obese patient

Jay B. Brodsky, Writing – Original Draft  
Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing

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# How to increase “Safe Apnea Period” (SAP)

- 70 L/minute of HFNC
  - routine pre-oxygenation and then continued both during intravenous induction of anesthesia and following paralysis.
- median apnea time was 14 minutes, and no SpO<sub>2</sub> less than 90%
- prevent hypoxia before and during intubation attempts by extending SAP









# Recommended Ventilation Strategies

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- To reduce atelectasis during and after anesthetic induction
  - **FiO<sub>2</sub> between 0.3 and 0.8**, even during the preextubation period
  - **PPV during induction**, increase SAP
  - **Recruitment maneuver(RM) immediately** after intubation, with pressure 40-50 cm H<sub>2</sub>O in 8-10 sec
  - Use of **Reverse trendelenburg position** whenever possible, from the time of preoxygenation to extubation

# Recommended Ventilation Strategies

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- **Low tidal volume**
  - VT 6-8 ml/kg of PBW
  - Avoid large VT and high ventilatory pressure
- **Increase RR for excessive hypercapnia**
  - Maintain physiologic  $\text{ETCO}_2$
  - Consider permissive hypercapnia
- **Keep plateau pressure  $< 30 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$**

**Predicted body weight (PBW):**

Predicted BW (males) =  $50 + 0.91 (\text{cm of height} - 152.4)$  in kg

Predicted BW (females) =  $45.5 + 0.91 (\text{cm of height} - 152.4)$  in kg

# Recommended Ventilation Strategies

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- Keep lung expansion
  - **Application of PEEP 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O until extubation**
    - always after recruitment maneuvers
  - **Avoid losing PEEP**
    - effect by suctioning the tube or by accidental disconnection of the circuit



# Fluid and Temperature Management

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- Risk of CHF or respiratory compromise during head down and air embolism during head position
- Other functional parameters have been suggested (eg. **PPV**)
- *Fluid therapy : IBW*
- *Perioperative hypothermia should be avoided*
  - active forced-air warming, warmed intravenous fluids

# Emergence from anesthesia

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- Reversal of neuromuscular blockade: **nerve stimulator**
- *Extubation : adequate reversal of NMB*
- *Almost upright or in reverse trendelenburg*
- In those patients with confirmed OSA, the insertion of a nasopharyngeal airway, before waking helps mitigate the partial airway obstruction

A photograph of a patient lying in a hospital bed, receiving postoperative care. The patient is wearing a blue hospital gown and has an oxygen mask on their face. They are holding a small white object in their hand. The bed is equipped with various medical devices, including a monitor displaying vital signs and a large oxygen mask. In the background, two medical professionals in blue scrubs are standing near the bed, and a window with vertical blinds is visible. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a blue tint.

# Postoperative Care

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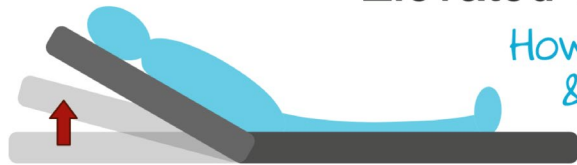


# Postoperative Care

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## Elevated Sleeping

How it Works  
& Benefits



- head-elevated or semiseated position
- CPAP in the early postoperative period
- continuous high-low nasal cannula
- patient-controlled analgesia is recommended, instead of a continuous infusion
- Analgesia by the enteral route should be commenced as early as possible



# Postoperative Care

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- Consider **nocturnal oxygen** for up to **5 days** following major surgery
- Frequent **chest physiotherapy and incentive spirometry**
- **Administer PONV and pain control with minimal sedation**
- **Encourage early ambulation**

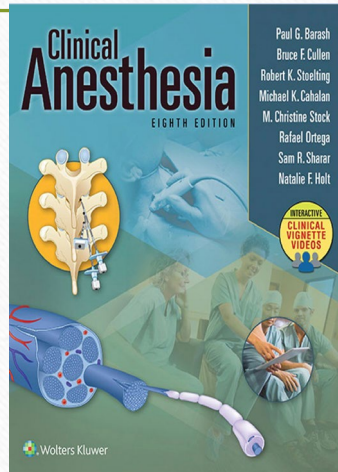
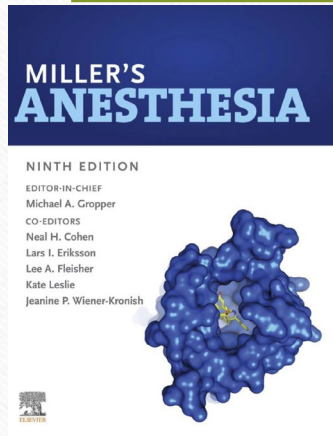
# Take Home Messages

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- OSA is common in obese patients and predispose to airway difficulties during anesthesia
- Large neck circumference is the single predictor of problematic intubation in morbid obese patients
- Head-elevated laryngoscopy position can improve laryngoscopy and intubation
- LBW is preferred dosing for common anesthetic agents except for succinylcholine, sugammadex, dexmetomidine, propofol(infusion) and neostigmine



# References



## Review

### Perioperative care of the obese patient

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### Recent advances in anesthesia of the obese patient

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Preparation, Writing – Review & Editing

[Additional article information](#)

## Patient Safety

Section Editor: Richard C. Prielipp

### Apneic Oxygenation During Prolonged Laryngoscopy in Obese Patients: A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Buccal RAE Tube Oxygen Administration



Thank You