

Thesis Title : The Effect of Different Positions on Oxygen Saturation in the Postoperative Patients with General Anesthesia in the Recovery Room

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ABSTRACT

Many complications can be found after general anesthesia and one of the most frequent complication is hypoxemia. Patients can be fatal from inappropriate prevention and delayed treatment. The main purpose of this study was to compare the oxygenation of the patients recovering from general anesthesia between supine and Fowler's position. Quasi-experimental research was implemented. Sixty patients who were recovered from general anesthesia at the recovery room of the Department of Surgery, Siriraj hospital were enrolled in this study. They had been selected according to the criterias and randomly assigned into two groups. Using B.C.I. 3301 pulse oximeter, sixty patients underwent general anesthesia were continuously monitored for 60 minutes in the recovery room. Group I, 30 patients were placed in supine position for 15 minutes, then Fowler's position for 15

minutes with oxygen mask supplement throughout 30 minutes and the positions were repeatedly adjusted without oxygen supplement for 30 minutes. Group II, 30 patients were placed in Fowler's position for 15 minutes, then supine position for 15 minutes within the period of 30 minutes of oxygen mask supplement and 30 minutes without oxygen supplement respectively. Oxygen saturation was measured at 0, 2, 5, 10, 15 minutes in supine and Fowler's position, with and without oxygen supplementation respectively. Data were analyzed by using Paired t-test.

The result indicated that either with or without oxygen supplement, oxygen saturation at 5, 10, 15 minutes in Fowler's position was significantly higher than supine position.

It is concluded that the Fowler's position can increase oxygenation in the patients recovering from general anesthesia more than supine position especially without oxygen supplement. The attenuation of postoperative pain from Fowler's position makes the patient feel more comfortable.