



**SOCIETY FOR SAMBA REGULATORY ANESTHESIA**  
Outpatient • Office Based • Non-Operating Room

**ASC Medical Directors & Leaders Virtual Summit**  
Saturday, January 22, 2022

**Pediatric Outpatient Anesthesia: Current Issues**



Rosalie F. Tassone, MD, MPH  
Envision Physician Services  
Palms West Hospital and Palms West Children's Hospital




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**Objectives**

- Review the updated guidelines for pediatric patients undergoing tonsillectomy
- Present discussion perspectives regarding NPO guidelines in pediatric patients
- Refresh recommendations regarding neuromuscular blockade in pediatric patients




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I have nothing to disclose



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**Introduction**






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**Starting at the End**

- Population based retrospective cohort
  - Patients <18 years of age
  - Ontario 2014-2018
  - 3 days post surgery
- 83,468 surgeries
  - 2588 (3.1%) ED visit
  - 608 (0.7%) hospital admission

 Emergency department use and hospital admission in children following ambulatory surgery: a retrospective population-based cohort study

Monsieur Saviney, D, Dikshith G VanDenKerkhof, D, David H Goldstein, D, Wei X, Pare G, Mayne I, Trummer J. Emergency department use and hospital admission in children following ambulatory surgery: a retrospective population-based cohort study. BMJ Paediatr Open. 2023 Nov 23;5(1):e001188. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2023-001188. PMID: 34901470. PMCID: PMC6611446.




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**Starting at the End**

- Majority of ED visits for
  - **pain and bleeding**
- Majority of hospital admissions for
  - **bleeding, dehydration, pain**
- Most common surgeries
  - Tonsillectomy and cholecystectomy



Sawhney M, VanDenKerkhof EG, Goldstein DH, Wei X, Pare G, Mayne I, Trummer J. Emergency department use and hospital admission in children following ambulatory surgery: a retrospective population-based cohort study. BMJ Paediatr Open. 2023 Nov 23;5(1):e001188. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2023-001188. PMID: 34901470. PMCID: PMC6611446.



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Predictors of Unanticipated Admission

**Pediatric Anesthesia**

RESEARCH REPORT

**Predictors of unanticipated admission following ambulatory surgery in the pediatric population: a retrospective case-control study**

Amanda Whippey, Gregory Kostandoff, Heung K. Ma, Ji Cheng, Lehana Thabane & James Paul

Department of Anesthesia, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada

**What is already known**

- The rate of unanticipated admission following adult ambulatory surgery is almost 2% and can be used as a marker of patient safety, quality of care, and to identify appropriate patients for ambulatory surgery.
- Little is known about the incidence of and potential risk factors for unanticipated admission in the pediatric population.

**What this article adds**

- The incidence of pediatric unanticipated admission is low (0.97%) but significant.
- Anesthesia-related causes accounted for the majority of admissions.
- Predictive factors include age, ASA 3 class, type, duration, and time to completion of surgery as well as presence of OSA.

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Predictors of Unanticipated Admission

- Case control study of ambulatory patients requiring unanticipated admission between 2005 and 2013
- Incidence of unanticipated admission was 0.97%
  - 47% (98) was anesthesia related
  - Hypoxia, pain, PONV
- Factors associated with unanticipated admission
  - Age <2 years
  - ASA 3 class
  - duration of surgery >1 h
  - completion of surgery >3 pm
  - orthopedic, dental, ENT
  - Intraoperative events
  - OSA


Whippey A, Kostandoff G, Ma HK, Cheng J, Thabane L, Paul J. Predictors of unanticipated admission following ambulatory surgery in the pediatric population: a retrospective case-control study. *Pediatr Anaesth*. 2016 Aug;26(8):831-7. doi: 10.1111/pan.12937. Epub 2016 Jun 1. PMID: 27247224.

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Case presentation

- 14-year-old girl presents for adenotonsillectomy
- 5' 3" 75 kg BMI 29
- sleep disordered breathing
- PMH for mild asthma
- Meds- albuterol prn, oral contraceptives
- Clear nasal discharge for past 1 day
- Younger brother at home just recovered from URI



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Guidelines for Tonsillectomy

Guidelines Executive Summary

**Clinical Practice Guideline: Tonsillectomy in Children (Update)—Executive Summary**

Ron B. Mitchell, MD<sup>1</sup>, Sanford M. Archer, MD<sup>2</sup>, Stacey L. Ishman, MD, MPH<sup>3</sup>, Richard M. Rosenfeld, MD, MPH, MBA<sup>4</sup>, Sarah Coles, MD<sup>5</sup>, Sandra A. Finestone, PsyD<sup>6</sup>, Norman R. Friedman, MD<sup>7</sup>, Terri Giordano, DNP<sup>8</sup>, Douglas M. Hildrew, MD<sup>9</sup>, Tae W. Kim, MD, MEHP<sup>10</sup>, Robin M. Lloyd, MD<sup>11</sup>, Sanjay R. Parikh, MD<sup>12</sup>, Stanford T. Shulman, MD<sup>13</sup>, David L. Walner, MD<sup>14</sup>, Sandra A. Walsh<sup>5</sup>, and Lorraine C. Nnacheta, MPH<sup>15</sup>

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Guidelines for Tonsillectomy

5. Indications for polysomnography	Before performing tonsillectomy, the clinician should refer children with obstructive sleep-disordered breathing (OSDB) for polysomnography (PSG) if they are <2 years of age or if they exhibit any of the following: obesity, Down syndrome, craniofacial abnormalities, neuromuscular disorders, sickle cell disease, or mucopolysaccharidoses.	Recommendation
9. Perioperative pain counseling	The clinician should counsel patients and caregivers regarding the importance of managing posttonsillectomy pain as part of the perioperative education process and should reinforce this counseling at the time of surgery with reminders about the need to anticipate, reassess, and adequately treat pain after surgery. Clinicians should <i>not</i> administer or prescribe perioperative antibiotics to children undergoing tonsillectomy.	Recommendation
10. Perioperative antibiotics	Clinicians should administer a single intraoperative dose of intravenous dexmethasone to children undergoing tonsillectomy.	Strong recommendation against
11. Intraoperative steroids	Clinicians should arrange for overnight, inpatient monitoring of children after tonsillectomy if they are <2 years old or have severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA; apnea-hypopnea index [AHI] >10 obstructive events/hour, oxygen saturation nadir <80% or both).	Strong recommendation
12. Inpatient monitoring for children after tonsillectomy	Clinicians should recommend ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or both for pain control after tonsillectomy.	Recommendation
13. Postoperative ibuprofen and acetaminophen	Clinicians must <i>not</i> administer or prescribe codeine, or any medication containing codeine, after tonsillectomy in children younger than 12 years.	Strong recommendation against
14. Postoperative codeine		

Mitchell RB, Archer SM, Ishman SL, et al. Clinical Practice Guideline: Tonsillectomy in Children (Update)—Executive Summary. *Otolaryngol-Head and Neck Surgery*. 2019;160(2):187-205. doi:10.1177/0149291818792791

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Opioid sparing anesthetics

- Codeine no longer routinely used
- Patients often sensitive to narcotics
- More opioid sparing approaches in literature
  - Ketorolac, dexmedetomidine, ketamine
  - However, some intraoperative narcotic use
- Peritonsillar local anesthetic injection

1) Aldemirji N, Burgess A, Pogatski Zahr E, Raeder J, Beloeil H, and (2021). PROSPECT guideline for tonsillectomy: systematic review and procedure-specific postoperative pain management recommendations. *Anaesthesia*, 76: 947-961. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anae.15295>

2) Franz AM, Dahl JP, Huang H, et al. The development of an opioid sparing anesthesia protocol for pediatric ambulatory tonsillectomy and adenotonsillectomy surgery—A quality improvement project. *Pediatr Anaesth*. 2019; 29: 682–689. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pan.13602>

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## ERAS in Adenotonsillectomy

Received 16 July 2021 | Revised 28 September 2021 | Accepted 27 September 2021  
DOI: 10.1002/er.1436

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY

**An enhanced recovery programme improves the comfort and outcomes in children with obstructive sleep apnoea undergoing adenotonsillectomy: A retrospective historical control study**

Yu Zhang<sup>1</sup> | Dawei Liu<sup>1</sup> | Xuemei Chen<sup>1</sup> | Jiahui Ma<sup>2</sup> | Xicheng Song<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, China  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology, Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, China

**Abstract**  
Objective: To explore the effects of an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) programme on postoperative rehabilitation in children with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) during the perioperative period of adenotonsillectomy.  
Design: A retrospective historical control study.  
Setting: Service improvement project.  
Participants: The study included 294 children with OSA (207 males, 187 females; age range 2.2 years to 14 years) who underwent adenotonsillectomy.  
Main outcome measures: The children who had undergone adenotonsillectomy and bilateral tonsillectomy were divided into an ERAS group (208 patients) treated with the combined optimization measures and a control group (186 patients) treated with traditional measures during the perioperative period. The postoperative incidence of complications, pain scores, anxiety scores and postoperative diets in the two groups were assessed.  
Results: Patients in the ERAS group had significantly a lower overall complication rate and incidence of fever for 2 weeks of follow-up when compared to patients in the control group through the application of perioperative optimization measures. Furthermore, patients in the ERAS group had less post-surgical pain, had faster dietary intake at days 1, 3 and 7 after surgery and had lower postoperative anxiety scores after admission education and while waiting for the operation room.  
Conclusion: The ERAS programme consisting of combined optimization measures can reduce physical and psychological trauma during the perioperative period of adenotonsillectomy performed for children with OSA.

**Keywords:** adenotonsillectomy, enhanced recovery, obstructive sleep apnoea, postoperative rehabilitation, retrospective study

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## ERAS in Adenotonsillectomy

**• 294 children with OSA**  
• 208 in ERAS group, 186 controls

**• ERAS protocol included**  
• ERAS education, nutritional assessment,  
• Periop anxiety management,  
• Standardized anesthetic, multimodal pain management  
• Drink 10% glucose (5 mL/kg) 2 hrs before surgery


**• ERAS patients had less pain, anxiety, complications**

Zhang, Y., Liu, D., Chen, X., Ma, J., Song, X. An enhanced recovery programme improves the comfort and outcomes in children with obstructive sleep apnoea undergoing adenotonsillectomy: A retrospective historical control study. *Clin Otolaryngol*. 2021; 46: 249–255. <https://doi.org/10.1111/coa.14365>

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## NPO guidelines



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## ASA current guidelines

- 2 hrs for clears
- 4 hrs for breast milk
- 6 hrs for formula, light meal
- 8 hrs for heavy meal

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## NPO concerns in children

- Instruction standardization
- Poor compliance
- Surgical case shuffling
- Aspiration risk
- Dehydration
- Patient and parent satisfaction
- Difficult IV access
- New studies related to gastric emptying

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## 1 hour fast for clears?

**Pro-Con Debate: 1- vs 2-Hour Fast for Clear Liquids Before Anesthesia in Children**

Nicola Disma, MD,\* Peter Frykholm, MD,† Scott D. Cook-Sather, MD, FICPP,‡ and Jerrold Lerman, MD, FRCP, FANZCA§

See Article, p 578

Perioperative fasting guidelines are designed to minimize the risk of pulmonary aspiration of gastrointestinal contents. The current recommendations from the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and the European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (ESAC) are for a minimum 2-hour fast after ingestion of clear liquids before general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, or procedural sedation and analgesia. Nonetheless, in children, fasting guidelines also have consequences as regards to child and parent satisfaction, hemodynamic stability, the ability to achieve vascular access, and perioperative energy balance. Despite the fact that current guidelines recommend a relatively short fasting time for clear fluids of 2 hours, the actual duration of fasting time can be significantly longer. This may be the result of differences in communication regarding the duration of the ongoing fasting interval as the schedule changes in a busy operating room as well as to poor parent and patient adherence to the 2-hour guidelines. Prolonged fasting can result in children arriving in the operating room for an elective procedure being thirsty, hungry, and generally in an uncomfortable state. Furthermore, prolonged fasting may adversely affect hemodynamic stability and can result in parental dissatisfaction with the perioperative experience. In this PRO and CON presentation, the authors debate the premise that reducing the nominal minimum fasting time from 2 hours to 1 hour can reduce the incidence of prolonged fasting and provide significant benefits to children, with no increased risks. (*Anesth Analg* 2021;133:581–91)

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## 1 hour fast for clears: Pro

- Underlying concepts of preoperative fasting
  - ensure “safety” from aspiration
  - smooth and comfortable perioperative experience
- Often fasting times exceed recommended times
- Incidence of pulmonary aspiration is 0.6-9 cases/10,000 children undergoing anesthesia



Disma, Nicola MD<sup>1</sup>, Frykholm, Peter MD<sup>2</sup>, Cook-Sather, Scott D. MD, FCFP<sup>3</sup>, Lerman, Jerrold MD, FRCP, FANZCA<sup>4</sup> Pro-Con Debate: 1- vs 2-Hour Fast for Clear Liquids Before Anesthesia in Children, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*: September 2021 · Volume 133 · Issue 3 · p 581-591 doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000000554<sup>1</sup>

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## 1 hour fast for clears: Pro

- During a fasting period of 1 hour, the greater part of any ingested fluid will empty from the stomach in healthy children
- Is endorsed and implemented already by some institutions and societies

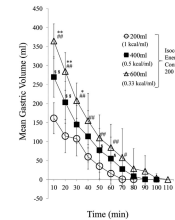


Figure 3. Gastric volume in children randomized to 0-, 1- or 2-h fasts. Gastric volume was determined by nasogastric intubation and aspiration of gastric contents. Median (IQR) gastric volumes were 170 (133-190) mL for the 0-h fast cohort and 130 (100-160) mL for the 1-h fast cohort. Note that none of the children actually fasted for the prescribed times. Volume of the undigested clear liquids ingested were 5 mL/kg to a maximum of 150 mL. A disproportionate percentage (32%) of subjects fasting <2 h had residual gastric fluid volumes >1.25 mL/kg, the historical 95th percentile. GFI<sub>0</sub> indicates gastric residual volume. Reproduced with permission from Schmidt et al.<sup>14</sup>

Disma, Nicola MD<sup>1</sup>, Frykholm, Peter MD<sup>2</sup>, Cook-Sather, Scott D. MD, FCFP<sup>3</sup>, Lerman, Jerrold MD, FRCP, FANZCA<sup>4</sup> Pro-Con Debate: 1- vs 2-Hour Fast for Clear Liquids Before Anesthesia in Children, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*: September 2021 · Volume 133 · Issue 3 · p 581-591 doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000000554<sup>1</sup>

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## 1 hour fast for clears: Con

- Often fasting times exceed recommended times
- Gastric emptying is complex
- In context of 1-hour fast pulmonary aspiration has increased to 12-18:10,000

Disma, Nicola MD<sup>1</sup>, Frykholm, Peter MD<sup>2</sup>, Cook-Sather, Scott D. MD, FCFP<sup>3</sup>, Lerman, Jerrold MD, FRCP, FANZCA<sup>4</sup> Pro-Con Debate: 1- vs 2-Hour Fast for Clear Liquids Before Anesthesia in Children, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*: September 2021 · Volume 133 · Issue 3 · p 581-591 doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000000554<sup>1</sup>

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## 1 hr fast for clears: Con

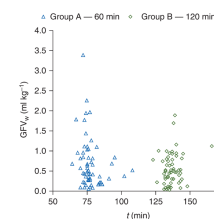


Figure 3. Variability of residual gastric fluid volume in children randomized to 1- vs 2-h fasts following clear liquids. Gastric fluid volumes were determined by nasogastric intubation and aspiration of gastric contents. Median (IQR) fasting times were 76 min (73-79 min) for the intended 1-h fast cohort and 136 min (133-140 min) for the 2-h cohort. Note that none of the children actually fasted for the prescribed times. Volume of the undigested clear liquids ingested were 5 mL/kg to a maximum of 150 mL. A disproportionate percentage (32%) of subjects fasting <2 h had residual gastric fluid volumes >1.25 mL/kg, the historical 95th percentile. GFI<sub>0</sub> indicates gastric residual volume. Reproduced with permission from Schmidt et al.<sup>14</sup>

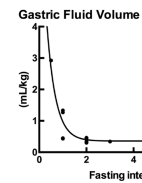


Figure 4. The relationship between the residual gastric fluid volume and the fasting interval. A tight exponential relationship was identified. Aggregate data plotted are that cited by Anderson et al.<sup>14</sup> Reproduced with permission from Lerman.<sup>14</sup>

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## 1 hour fast for clears: Con

- Clear liquids of varying composition and unlimited volumes are INCONSISTENTLY and UNRELIABLY emptied from the stomach in 1 hr
- Focus on improving compliance of 2-hour fast



Disma, Nicola MD<sup>1</sup>, Frykholm, Peter MD<sup>2</sup>, Cook-Sather, Scott D. MD, FCFP<sup>3</sup>, Lerman, Jerrold MD, FRCP, FANZCA<sup>4</sup> Pro-Con Debate: 1- vs 2-Hour Fast for Clear Liquids Before Anesthesia in Children, *Anesthesia & Analgesia*: September 2021 · Volume 133 · Issue 3 · p 581-591 doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000000554<sup>1</sup>

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## Back to our case

- 14-year-old girl presents for adenotonsillectomy
- 5' 3" 75 kg BMI 29
- sleep disordered breathing
- PMH for mild asthma
- Meds- albuterol prn, oral contraceptives



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## Reversal of Neuromuscular Blockade

- Current literature with more attention toward reversal of neuromuscular blockade
- Full reversal not always achieved
- Sugammadex FDA approved in children
- Sugammadex vs Neostigmine
- Counseling patients on oral contraceptives who receive sugammadex about utilizing alternate form of contraception postoperatively

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NDA 022225/S-008

### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROVAL FULFILLMENT OF POSTMARKETING REQUIREMENT

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.  
126 E. Lincoln Avenue, PO Box 2000  
Ryehill, NJ 07065

Attention: Dori Glassner  
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs

Dear Ms. Glassner:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application (sNDA) dated and received, August 26, 2020, and your amendments, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Brilidion (sugammadex) injection.

This Prior Approval supplemental new drug application proposes changes to the Package Insert based on data to fulfill the requirements of postmarketing requirement (PMR) 3003-8 in pediatric patients ages 2 to less than 17 years old. The data is from Study P089 - A Phase 4 Double-Blinded, Randomized, Active Comparator-Controlled Clinical Trial to Study the Efficacy, Safety, and Pharmacokinetics of Sugammadex (MK-8816) for Reversal of Neuromuscular Blockade in Pediatric Participants.

#### APPROVAL & LABELING

We have completed our review of this application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed agreed-upon labeling.

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## Sugammadex in children

**Sugammadex for reversal of neuromuscular blockade in pediatric patients: Results from a phase IV randomized study**

Titus Voss<sup>1</sup>, Andre Wenz<sup>2</sup>, Mathias Ditzel<sup>3</sup>, Marcel Spronk<sup>4</sup>, Van Sabbe<sup>5</sup>, Gregory B. Hansen<sup>6</sup>, Rebecca Winkler<sup>7</sup>, W. Joseph Hartung<sup>8</sup>

**Abstract**

**Background:** Sugammadex (SUG) is a selective relaxant binding agent that reverses neuromuscular blockade (NMB) induced by rocuronium (ROC) and vecuronium (VEC). SUG is approved for the reversal of NMB in adults. The aim of this study was to evaluate the efficacy and safety of SUG for the reversal of NMB in pediatric patients.

**Methods:** A phase IV randomized study was conducted in pediatric patients aged 2 to 17 years. The study compared the reversal of NMB induced by ROC and VEC with SUG and neostigmine (NEO). The primary endpoint was the time to recovery to a train-of-four (TOF) ratio of 0.90. Secondary endpoints included the time to spontaneous breathing, the time to extubation, and the time to discharge from the operating room.

**Results:** A total of 288 patients were enrolled in the study. The study showed that SUG was effective and safe for the reversal of NMB in pediatric patients. The time to recovery to a TOF ratio of 0.90 was significantly shorter with SUG compared to NEO. The time to spontaneous breathing, the time to extubation, and the time to discharge from the operating room were also significantly shorter with SUG compared to NEO.

**Conclusion:** SUG is an effective and safe agent for the reversal of NMB in pediatric patients. The study results support the use of SUG for the reversal of NMB in pediatric patients.

**Keywords:** Sugammadex, rocuronium, vecuronium, neuromuscular blockade, pediatric patients.

Voss T, Wang A, DeAngelis M, et al. Sugammadex for reversal of neuromuscular blockade in pediatric patients: Results from a phase IV randomized study. *Pediatr Anesth*. 2021;30:1-10. doi:10.1111/pda.14310

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## Residual neuromuscular block

- impaired regulation of ventilation during hypoxia
- impaired pharyngeal function and airway protection
- is a risk factor for the development of postoperative pulmonary complications
- To assure normal vital muscle function and normal ventilatory regulation, an adductor pollicis TOF ratio of 0.90 should ideally be achieved before a patient is allowed to breath spontaneously after tracheal extubation
- This can only be reliably detected using objective monitoring techniques of neuromuscular function, such as accelerometry or electromyography

Eriksson, Lars I. MD, PhD The Effects of Residual Neuromuscular Blockade and Volatile Anesthetics on the Control of Ventilation, Anesthesia & Analgesia: July 1999 - Volume 89 - Issue 1 - p 243-251 doi: 10.1213/00000539-199907000-00045

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## Residual neuromuscular block

- Monocentric prospective observational cohort
  - 291 patients ages >29 weeks and < 19 years
- Incidence of residual neuromuscular block
  - 48.2% in OR
  - 26.9% in PACU
- Pharmacological reversal of neuromuscular block was administered in 23.3% of patients
  - 41% of these after the TOF measurement in the OR (due to residual blockade)
- Quantitative monitoring of neuromuscular blockade was implemented in all patients when NMBAs are administered

Klucka J, Kostinova M, Krikava I, Stoudel R, Trukalova M, Stourac P. Residual neuromuscular block in paediatric anaesthesia. *Br J Anaesth*. 2019;123(1):41-49.

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## Reversal Agents and Postoperative Pulmonary Complications in Children

### Association of Sugammadex or Neostigmine With Major Postoperative Pulmonary Complications in Children

Ralph J. Bellotti, MD, Christian Mody, MD, PhD, MBA, MPH, Oubakia O. Naffa, MD, FRCA, MS, and Joseph D. Tobias, MD

**Background:** Recent data in adult patients indicate that the use of sugammadex compared to neostigmine for reversal of neuromuscular block (NMB) was associated with a significant reduction in the risk of postoperative pulmonary complications. Despite the clinical significance of postoperative complications in children, studies exploring the use of NMB reversal in the pediatric population are currently nonexistent.

**Methods:** We performed a propensity score-matched retrospective study using the Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS) database spanning the years 2015 and 2020. We evaluated data from 18,000 patients who underwent elective, inpatient, noncardiac surgical procedures and received either sugammadex or neostigmine for reversal of NMB. Our primary outcome was major postoperative pulmonary complications, which included the occurrence of either pneumonia or respiratory failure.

**Results:** Our study included a study population of 18,000 children, of whom 12,502 (69.4%) received sugammadex and 5,498 (30.6%) received neostigmine. The incidence of major postoperative pulmonary complications was significantly lower in the sugammadex group compared to the neostigmine group (OR 0.5, 95% CI 0.3-0.8,  $P < .001$ ). The components of postoperative complications, including pneumonia and respiratory failure, were also significantly lower in the sugammadex group.

**Conclusions:** Choice of NMB reversal agent does not appear to impact the incidence of major postoperative pulmonary complications. Further research is needed to determine whether our results carry forth across subpopulations defined by surgical specialty, the presence of complex comorbidities, and anesthesia technique. *Anesth Analg*. 2021;132(5):1000-1007.

**KEY POINTS**

**Question:** What is the association between the choice of neuromuscular block reversal and major postoperative pulmonary complications among children undergoing noncardiac elective surgery?

**Findings:** In a large multi-institutional cohort of 18,000 children undergoing noncardiac surgery, there was no difference in the risk-adjusted incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications between children receiving sugammadex and those receiving neostigmine for reversal of neuromuscular blockade.

**Meaning:** Our study results indicate that the choice of NMB reversal agent does not appear to impact the incidence of major postoperative pulmonary complications. Further research is needed to determine whether our results carry forth across subpopulations defined by surgical specialty, the presence of complex comorbidities, and anesthesia technique.

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