

Implementation of OSA Testing for High-Risk Surgical Patients

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Patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) are at increased risk of postoperative complications and longer hospital admissions.^{1,2} However, an estimated 80-90% of patients with OSA are undiagnosed.^{3,4} There are several limitations to diagnosing OSA in surgical patients, including limited use of screening tools, turnaround times on test interpretation and lack of patient follow-up. The University of Colorado Hospital Pre Procedure Services Clinic has been able to efficiently diagnose and treat OSA in surgical patients, finding that 89% of high-risk patients had previously-undiagnosed sleep apnea. This project outlines an effective model for perioperative OSA management and addresses historical challenges faced in this setting.