Patient positioning and intra-abdominal pressure

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Background



Intra-abdominal pressure (IAP)

- Intra-abdominal hypertension:
 - sustained increase in IAP ≥12mmHg
- Abdominal compartment syndrome:
 - sustained increase in IAP
 >20mmHg + new onset organ failure

How is IAP measured?

- Via the bladder with a pressure transducer
- In supine position

Challenges:

- Measurement technique is prone to i naccuracy
- Most patients at ICU are positioned in 30° head-of-bed (HOB) elevation

BaltAnestIC 2023

11th International Baltic Congress of Anaesthesioogy and Intensive care September 28–30, 2023, Tartu, Estonia Estonian National Museum



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Background

• Smit et al. 2022:

Table 6. Proposed reference table for correction of intra-abdominal pressure in different head-of-bed positions.

Head-of-bed elevation (°)	IAP (mmHg)
0–20	Pressure measured
20–40	Pressure measured—4
>40	Pressure measured—9

IAP: intra-abdominal pressure.

Smit M, van Meurs M, Zijlstra JG. Intra-abdominal hypertension and abdominal compartment syndrome in critically ill patients: A narrative review of past, present, and future steps. Scandinavian Journal of Surgery 2022 Feb;111(1):14574969211030128.



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Research question

- I. How does IAP vary with patient position?
 - I. Does HOB elevation influence IAP?
 - II. Is it possible to validate the previously proposed reference table to correct for the supine position towards the HOB elevation?
 - III. If not, is it possible to find another equation to correct for HOB elevation?



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Methods

- Single-center observational study at the ICU on postoperative cardiothoracic patients
- IAP was measured by the Accuryn[®] Monitoring System by Potrero Medical in supine, 15°, 30°,45° and 60° HOB elevation
- Statistics: repeated measure ANOVA



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Results

- Mean IAP in supine position: 9.3 mmHg
- ANOVA revealed a significant difference between the mean IAP of the HOB elevations
- Mean difference:
 - 0° to 15°: 1.8 mmHg
 - 15° to 30: 2.4 mmHg
 - 30° to 45°: 2.3 mmHg
 - 45° to 60°: 2.1 mmHg



Mean intra-abdominal pressure per head-of-bed position with 95% CI



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Conclusion

- 1. This study confirms that HOB elevation has a significant influence on IAP
- 2. Previously proposed equation by Smit et al. could not be validated
- 3. We observed an approximately +2mmHg increase per 15° increase in HOB
- 4. Results should be considered in the upcoming revision in WSACS guideline



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Future research

- Evaluate change of IAP in prone position
- Validation of the proposed equation in a larger patient population and different patient population

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