PREDICTORS OF POST-OP RESPIRATORY COMPLICATIONS

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1. The major respiratory complications that occur post-op are airway obstruction, hypoxemia, hypercapnia, and aspiration.
2. The risk of these events occurring post-op increases with increasing age, obesity, long or emergency surgeries, opioid use, and use of thiopental in contrast to propofol


The risk of respiratory complications including desaturation, cough, laryngospasm, bronchospasm, breath-holding, or apnea are higher in smokers


Predictors of re-intubation after cardiac surgical procedures include operating room time, respiratory rate, vital capacity, and COPD


Respiratory complications post-op are more likely to occur in the following settings: inadequate reversal of NM blockers, upper abdominal surgery, excessive fluid administration, excessive use of anesthetic/sedating drugs.


Patients with underlying asthma or chronic bronchitis are at increased risk for pulmonary complications as are patients undergoing abdominal surgery. Patients with better exercise tolerance have lower rates of complication. PFTs did not help delineate patients at higher risk for post-op pulmonary complications.