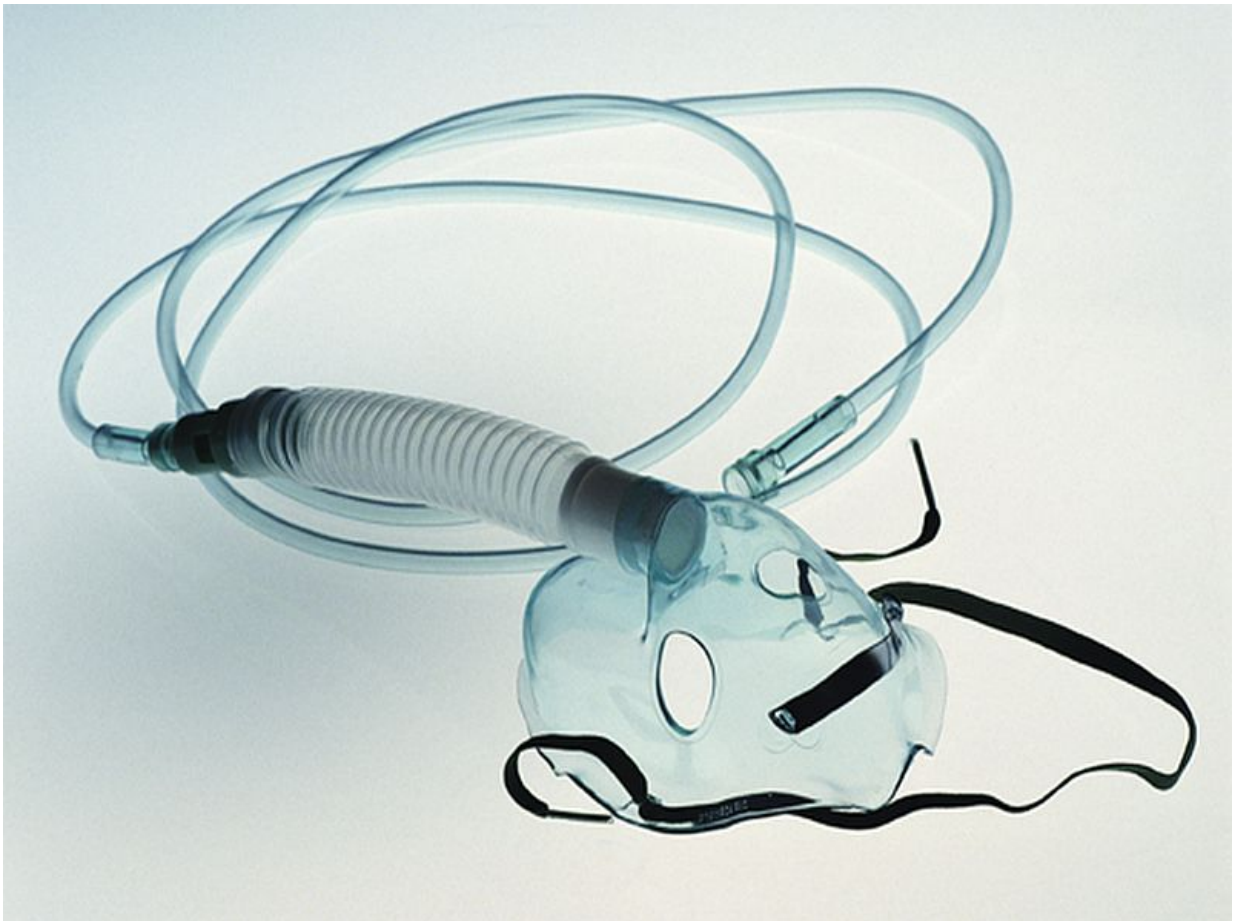


# Sleep apnea diagnoses up among outpatients from 1993 to 2010

September 12 2016

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(HealthDay)—From 1993 to 2010 there was an increase in the diagnosis

of sleep apnea in U.S. ambulatory practice visits, according to a study published online Sept. 1 in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

Andrew M. Namen, M.D., from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and colleagues examined trends in the frequency of adult outpatient visits in the United States for [sleep apnea](#). Data were included for 838,000 ambulatory practice visits from 1993 to 2010.

The researchers observed a 14.6-fold increase in the diagnosis of sleep apnea from 420,000 to 6.37 million per year ( $P = 0.0002$ ). Overall, 33, 17, and 10 percent of patients were reported by primary care providers, pulmonologists, and otolaryngologists; reports of a diagnosis of sleep apnea by "other groups" increased during the study ( $P$

"A [diagnosis](#) of sleep apnea was identified much more frequently in 2010 than in 1993 by outpatient practice clinicians participating in national surveys during outpatient visits to hospital-based as well as non-hospital based practices in the United States," the authors write.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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