

CHEST: odds of certain post-op issues up with sleep apnea

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(HealthDay)—Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) may increase risk of

developing postoperative atrial fibrillation and venous thromboembolism, according to two new studies scheduled for presentation at the annual meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians, held from Oct. 22 to 26 in Los Angeles.

One study looked at 209 patients having open-heart bypass surgery between 2013 and 2015 to see how a high risk for OSA affected the likelihood of developing [atrial fibrillation](#) afterward. Atrial fibrillation occurred among almost 70 percent of high-risk, untreated OSA patients, study author Samir Patel, M.D., M.P.H., an internal medicine physician with Western Reserve Health Education in Youngstown, Ohio, told *HealthDay*. This compared with only about 41 percent of both the low-risk and diagnosed OSA patients.

In the second study, researchers led by Mohammed Aljasmī, M.D., of the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, looked at the postoperative risk for developing certain complications. Those undiagnosed but deemed at high risk of OSA faced significantly greater odds for developing venous thromboembolism.

"Patients with OSA [who] are not treated with continuous positive airway pressure demonstrate a higher risk for [venous thromboembolism](#) postoperatively," the authors conclude. "This stresses the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of OSA prior to scheduled elective surgery."

More information: [More Information](#)

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