

CPAP treatment effective in patients with milder obstructive sleep apnea and daytime sleepiness

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Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), well established as an effective treatment for severe obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), is also effective in patients with mild and moderately severe OSA and daytime sleepiness, according to a new study.

"The evidence for the efficacy of CPAP in patients with milder OSA is limited and conflicting," said lead author Terri E. Weaver, PhD, RN, professor and dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. "Our multi-site, double-blind, [randomized trial](#), the first placebo-controlled study to use sham CPAP in sleepy patients with mild to moderate OSA, shows that CPAP treatment effectively reduces symptoms and improves quality of life in these patients, the largest segment of the OSA population."

The findings were published online ahead of print publication in the [American Thoracic Society's American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine](#).

In the study, 239 patients with newly diagnosed milder OSA and self-reported daytime sleepiness (an Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) score > 10) were randomized to eight weeks of active or sham CPAP treatment. After the eight-week intervention, patients in the sham arm were crossed over to eight weeks of active treatment. The primary outcome measure was total score on the Functional Outcomes of Sleep [Questionnaire](#)

(FOSQ), which measures the impact of [daytime sleepiness](#) on activities of daily living.

The adjusted mean change in FOSQ total score after the initial eight-week intervention was 0.89 for actively treated patients and -0.06 for sham-treated patients ($p = 0.006$). Mean improvement in FOSQ total score from the beginning to the end of the cross-over phase of the study was 1.73 ± 2.50 (p

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