# Obstructive sleep apnea and its effects on the Heart!

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### Outline

- Definitions
- Demographics
- Pathophysiology
- Risk factors
- Symptoms
- Determining Severity
- Systemic effects
- Effects on the Heart



#### Definitions

- Repetitive cessation (Apnea)
   or reduction (Hypopnea) of
   airflow during sleep despite
   respiratory efforts
- Due to complete (Apnea) or
   partial (Hypopnea) airway
   occlusion during sleep



Is this you?

#### Demographics

- 24% of adult men and 9% of adult women
- Gender Males> Females
  - Prevalence in women
     increases with
     menopause



## Upper airway is a collapsible cylinder

- Think of your upper airway as a cylinder..
- Determinants of air flow
  - Difference of upstream pressure and downstream pressure
  - Airway resistance
- Upper airway patency determined by balance of
  - Maintain airway opening (dilator muscles)
  - Promote airway closure (decreased intraluminal pressure and Bernoulli Forces)
  - Airway size influenced by lung volume that decreases during sleep



#### While you are asleep...

Mechanism of Obstruction - Upper airway is a collapsable cylinder

## What are some factors that worsen collapse of the upper airway

- Alcohol
- Sedatives
- Obesity
- Aging



#### PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

- Repetitive upper airway obstruction is associated with ....
  - Snoring (alternating with periods of silence)
  - Fall in SaO2
  - Arrythmias
    - Decrease HR during obstruction
    - Increase HR during apnea termination
  - Arousal at apnea termination
  - Increased Blood pressure during post apnea period



#### Risk Factors for OSA

- Family history of OSA
- Male Gender
- Menopausal state
- Aging
- Race (AA, Mex -A, Asians and Pacific islanders)
- Excess body weight



#### Common Clinical Features

- Daytime sleepiness (most common)
- Repeated awakenings with gasping or choking
- Snoring, morning headaches
- Witnessed apneas
- Attention deficit
- Changes in mood
- Dry mouth/ throat
- Fatigue, Reflux, Insomnia



#### What Do You Do if OSA Is Suspected: STOP-BANG

#### STOP Questionnaire

- <u>S</u>noring
- <u>Tiredness</u>
- <u>Observed you</u> stop breathing
- Blood <u>P</u>ressure

#### BANG

- <u>B</u>MI>35
- <u>Age >50</u>
- <u>N</u>eck circumference >40 cm (>15.7")
- <u>Gender male</u>

#### High risk: Yes to ≥3 items → Refer for sleep testing

#### Is your doctor screening you?

#### OSA: Severity

- APNEA-HYPOPNEA
   INDEX (AHI)
- Mild 5-15
- Moderate 15-30
- Severe >30



#### OSA-Severity

- Other factors that influence the clinical severity of OSA
  - Degree of daytime sleepiness
  - Lowest SaO2
  - Severity of sleep fragmentation
  - Nocturnal arrhythmias
  - Co-morbid cardiovascular or neurological disorders

OSA: A Systemic Disorder

- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Renal
- Gastrointestinal
- Endocrine
- Neuro-cognitive
- Immunity



### OSA and HTN

- OSA is a risk factor for HTN independent of known confounding factors
  - Increase in SBP and DBP
  - Loss of nocturnal fall in BP
    'dipping' phenomenon
    - Risk of cardiovascular disease is increased..



#### OSA and HTN

- Wisconsin Sleep Cohort Study (709 participants followed over 4 years)
- The OR for presence of HTN at 4 year follow up
  - AHI (0-5) 1.42
  - AHI (5-15)- 2.03
  - AHI >15 2.89



### OSA and HTN

- Improvement in BP during CPAP therapy in persons with OSA and HTN
- Meta-analysis of RTC (1980-2006)
  - 16 trials; 818 subjects
  - Compared to controls, mean net change with CPAP
    - SBP 2.46mm Hg
    - DBP 1.83mm Hg
    - MAP 2.2mm Hg

#### OSA and Heart Failure

- 1/ 3rd of patients with heart failure will have OSA
  - LV systolic dysfunction is an independent risk factor for OSA
  - OSA may contribute to worsening LV dysfunction
- Higher mortality with untreated
   OSA
  - 24% vs 12% (JAm Coll Card 2007)



#### Effect of treating OSA in CHF



 CPAP therapy improved Left Ventricular ejection fraction in persons with acute heart failure and OSA

### OSA and Arrhythmias

- Ventricular arrhythmias
  - Frequency of PVCs
     during sleep decreased by
     58% with CPAP



Decreased recurrence
 after cardioversion with
 CPAP (82% vs 42%)





#### OSA and Ischemic Heart Disease

- Increased risk in middle aged adults with OSA
  - Independent of age, BMI, BP and smoking
  - Reduced by reversal of OSA ( JChest 1996)
- Sleep Heart Health Study
  - 16% of patients with OSA reported 1 more major event
    - MI or angina
    - Coronary re-vascularization
    - HF or Stroke

Sleep Apnea and Heart Disease: Inevitable Consequence Which Can Be Prevented



#### OSA and Heart disease

- Possible mechanisms for greater risk of heart disease in patients with OSA
  - Endothelial dysfunction
  - Hyper coagulable state
    - Increased plasma fibrinogen levels
    - Increased platelet activity
    - Decreased fibrinolytic activity
  - Insulin resistance
  - Increased inflammatory markers
  - Increased sympathetic activity
  - Marked sleep related hypotension (low BP)

#### OSA and Heart Disease

- At a mean follow of 10.1 years
  - Untreated severe OSA
     significantly increased the
     risk of fatal and non fatal
     cardiac events compared
     with health controls
    - In treated OSA patients the incidence of fatal and non fatal events was decreased by 50%



#### OSA and Sudden Cardiac death

- General population
  - Sudden cardiac death
     peaks from 6am to noon
- Patients with OSA
  - Peaks from midnight to
    6am



# Treatment ...talk to your doctor!

- Avoidance of alcohol, smoking and muscle relaxants
- Sleep hygiene
- Safety counseling
- Optimal Weight management
- CPAP therapy, Oxygen therapy, Drugs
- Dental devices
- Upper airway surgery
- Tracheostomy

