

Avoiding Face Injuries in Prone Position

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Background/Introduction

In the month of March 2022 alone, there were four skin integrity issues reported through the patient safety net (PSN) in prone position in the operating room. Almost seventy-five percent of the reported incidences were located on the face area of patients. The team has chart reviews of the patients involved and considers factors like length of surgery, weight, and the prone positioning device that is utilized on the face. Prior implementation, the department utilized polyurethane non-face countered positioner to support the face. Searched for the latest evidence for prone positioning device for the face initiated and shared to the team.

Purpose

The project aims to decrease the prone positioning face injuries in patients undergoing neuro-spine surgery.

Method

The team is composed of a clinical nurse leader, resource nurse, two champion nurses, two spine surgeons, and three anesthesia providers who work collaboratively to provide a solution to skin integrity issues that arise in prone position patients.

The clinical nurse leader commenced a meeting with the operating room managers of the unit and shared the rising number of skin integrity issues among the prone position especially in the face area. The data was presented to resource nurse and the two champion nurses of the spine service lines. The team searched for the best evidence available to counter the skin integrity issues in the face and shared it with the team. Prone positioner headrest products were searched and examined also based on the evidence.

Prior to the implementation, training for prone position was commenced and with specifics with the utilization of the protected foams for the face. Based on the evidence, all prone patients that have surgery time of three or more hours need to use the face-counterposed positioner. This decision was made based on evidence and practice of the surgeons. The implementation of the practice change is to run for six months and needs to be reviewed to see if the practice will continue or not.

Results



In public domain. Prone position (2023). *Anesthesia News*.



In public domain. Operating table positioning system (2023). *Proneview*.



In public domain. Operating table positioning system (2023). *Jackson Spine*.



In public domain. Operating table positioning system (2023). *Proaxis*.

Results/Implications

After six months of implementation of this practice, there were no reported incidences of face skin integrity issues in prone position. Further monitoring and evaluation are advised to see the effectiveness of the practice change and the material that was used.

Future Actions

Prone position is one of the challenging positions in the operating room considering the beds and positioning devices to make the patient safe. Skin integrity issues are reported more frequent in this position because of pressure points during surgery. Knowledge of appropriate positioning devices to protect the patients is crucial to prevent skin integrity issues and injuries.

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