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Summary

DURATION-DEPENDENT RISK OF HYPOXEMIA IN COLONOSCOPY PROCEDURES

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Colorectal

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A retrospective cohort study of 21,524 colonoscopy patients found that procedure duration significantly correlates with severe hypoxemia risk, rising from 17.3% in procedures under 20 minutes to 36.1% in procedures over 60 minutes.

KEY POINTS

- Severe hypoxemia (oxygen saturation below 90%) incidence increased progressively with colonoscopy duration: 17.3% for procedures under 20 minutes, 24.2% for 20-40 minutes, 32.4% for 40-60 minutes, and 36.1% for procedures over 60 minutes.
- Age and procedure duration were significant predictors of hypoxemia, with older patients and longer procedures associated with higher risks.
- The study included 21,524 adult patients undergoing colonoscopy at Sheba Medical Center, Israel, from January 2020 to January 2024, using personalized sedation with Fentanyl, Midazolam, and Propofol.
- The analysis highlighted the need for careful sedation management in longer procedures and for optimizing procedural efficiency to reduce hypoxemia risk.
- This material would be most relevant to gastroenterologists, anesthesiologists, and endoscopy unit staff involved in colonoscopy sedation and patient safety protocols.

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