

Continuing Professional Development - Sleep and breathing disorders

Module 1. Neuroanatomy and neurobiology of sleep

1. Regulation of the sleep-wake cycle
 - 1.1. Basic neural processes and transmitters that control wakefulness, non-rapid eye movement and rapid eye movement sleep states
2. Sleep architecture in a normal adult
 - 2.1. Ageing process from foetal life to old age affects the sleep cycle
 - 2.2. Sex differences in sleep

Module 2. Physiology and pathophysiology of sleep and breathing

1. Factors that control breathing during sleep and wakefulness
2. Physiological ventilatory response to hypercapnia and hypoxaemia
3. Molecular mechanisms of hypercapnia and hypoxemia e.g. master regulators and signalling pathways involved
4. The pathophysiological concept of upper airway obstruction, arousability, muscle responsiveness, and loop gain
 - 4.1. Functional anatomy of the upper airway
 - 4.2. Morphologic and functional changes of upper airway muscles
 - 4.3. Arousal threshold
5. Pathophysiology of central sleep apnoea (CSA)
 - 5.1. Hypercapnic and non-hypercapnic CSA
 - 5.2. Chemoresponsiveness
 - 5.3. Apnoea threshold
6. Hypoventilation disorders
 - 6.1. Chemoresponsiveness
 - 6.2. Influence of respiratory mechanics and ventilation
 - 6.2.1. Sleep-related changes in respiratory mechanics in the aetiology of nocturnal hypoventilation
7. Differences in physiology and pathophysiology of sleep and breathing in the elderly and differences between sexes

Module 3. Cardiovascular and homeostatic mechanisms and sleep

1. Cardiovascular function (e.g. blood pressure and heart rate) during sleep and arousal from sleep
2. Impact of sleep on autonomic regulation and the consequences of sleep pathology, e.g. in obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) and CSA

Module 4. Physiology of arterial blood gas (ABG) and the acid-base status

1. Utility of ABG, capillary blood gas and venous blood gas
 - 1.1. Diagnosis of A-B disorders: Henderson-Hasselbalch equation and the relationship between partial pressure of oxygen (PO_2), partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PCO_2), pH and bicarbonates (HCO_3)
 - 1.2. A-B disorders: importance of the D(A-a) difference, fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO_2), the alveolar gas equation and measuring oxygen shunts

Module 5. Definition of sleep-disordered breathing (SDB)

1. Obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA), CSA (idiopathic, high altitude periodic breathing, Cheyne-Stokes respiration, CSA in non-cardiac medical conditions, Treatment Emerged Central Sleep Apnoea (TECSA)), obesity hypoventilation syndrome (OHS), nocturnal hypoventilation, upper airway resistance syndrome,
2. Epidemiology of OSA, CSA and OHS
3. Clinical phenotypes of OSA (e.g. COMISA, females) and CSA and their relationship to the underlying pathophysiology

Module 6. Assessment of the patient

1. Sleep history including:
 - 1.1. Sleepiness and fatigue

- 1.2. Insomnia
- 1.3. Poor sleep quality
- 1.4. Nocturnal choking and gasping
- 1.5. Snoring
- 1.6. Morning headaches
- 1.7. Impotence
- 1.8. Low mood or labile mood
- 1.9. Cognitive impairment
- 1.10. Differential diagnosis of sleepiness and insomnia, *e.g.* consider lifestyle choices, sleep hygiene and medication
2. Signs
 - 2.1. Clinical examination of the upper airway, nasal obstruction, tonsils and adenoids
 - 2.2. Craniofacial disorders
 - 2.3. Hypothyroidism
 - 2.4. Obesity
3. Comorbidities, *e.g.* COPD, Interstitial Lung Diseases (ILD's), chest wall disease, neuromuscular or neurological disorders, cardiovascular disease and endocrine or metabolic disorders

Module 7. Evaluation of the impact of symptoms and establishment of the pre-test probability of SDB

1. Usage of questionnaires: Screening (NOSA, STOP-BANG score, Berlin questionnaire), sleepiness (Epworth sleepiness scale), QoL (SF-36, FOSQ, PHQ-9), insomnia (ISI, AIS)
2. Two-stage screening with limited sleep tests like nocturnal oximetry to further increase pre-test probability
3. Identification of high-risk patients, *e.g.* those with severe sleepiness, insomnia, unstable cardiac disease, nocturnal arrhythmia or baseline hypoxaemia or those who drive or have another occupational risk

Module 8. Diagnosis of respiratory sleep disorder

1. Methodology of different sleep tests (oximetry, respiratory polygraphy and full polysomnography (PSG), home *versus* in-laboratory-based sleep studies)
2. Limitations of different sleep tests
3. Appreciation of which patients to refer for PSG, *e.g.* those with an unclear diagnosis on respiratory polygraphy, with comorbidities, a poor treatment response or a suspected non-respiratory sleep disorder such as narcolepsy or restless leg syndrome
4. Identification of cases that require further specialised examinations, *e.g.* ear-nose-throat (ENT, DISE) review of the upper airway
5. Review of cardiovascular, respiratory and metabolic disorders often associated with OSA
6. High cardio-metabolic and driving risks associated with untreated OSA
7. Value of making lifestyle improvements including weight loss, exercise, adherence to drug treatment for hypertension or diabetes, smoking cessation and alcohol reduction

Module 9. Nocturnal capnography

1. Role of capnography in patients with nocturnal hypoventilation
2. Limitations of overnight transcutaneous carbon dioxide (TCO₂) and end-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO₂) monitoring
3. Use of capnography to establish ventilator settings

Module 10. OSA management

1. Distinguish mild, moderate and severe cases of OSA from normal results and upper airway resistance syndrome integrating additional biosignals to apnoea hypopnea index (AHI) parameters such as nocturnal hypoxic burden, or indices of autonomic dysfunction, etc
2. Integrating the multicomponent grading system for OSA: the Baveno classification
3. Lifestyle interventions including weight loss, exercise, smoking cessation, alcohol reduction, avoidance of night sedation and sensible sleep hygiene measures
4. Role of ENT intervention
5. Role and types of mandibular advancement splints and other oral devices

6. Definition of positional sleep apnoea and the role of positional devices
7. Other non-CPAP therapies: muscles rehabilitation and pharmaceutical approaches
8. Indications for positive airway pressure (PAP) therapy
9. Differences between fixed level CPAP, variable (automatic) CPAP (automatic positive airway pressure (APAP)), and bi-level positive pressure (BPAP) therapy
10. Identification of patients to refer for these interventions depending on local pathways
11. PAP-related side effects such as interface problems, airway drying and sleep disturbance
12. Issues leading to poor adherence and how these may be addressed
13. TECSA: identify OSA patients at high risk of developing TECSA, how to diagnose and treat
14. Treatment of comorbidities
15. Different ways of monitoring positive pressure therapy: clinic visits, data downloads from devices and telemonitoring
16. Follow-up including assessment of the efficacy of therapy in controlling OSA and also the impact on comorbidities and health-related quality of life
17. Importance of explaining the rationale and likely outcomes of treatment to patients and of providing advice about medico-legal aspects such as driving
18. Awareness and importance of following local guidelines on the diagnosis and management of OSA [HS](#)

Module 11. CSA

1. Classification of the aetiology of CSA: idiopathic, heart failure-related and induced by a cerebrovascular cause (e.g. a cerebrovascular accident, opioid or other drug use and high altitude)
2. Differential symptoms and signs of OSA and CSA
3. Pathophysiology of different types of CSA
4. Recognition of which patients to refer for sleep studies

Module 12. Management of CSA

1. Impact of CSA on underlying pathology
2. CSA in chronic heart failure
3. Importance of optimising therapy for heart failure
4. Role of CPAP in specific patients including those with mixed OSA and CSA
5. Adaptive servo-ventilation use in heart failure patients with reduced and with preserved [a](#) left ventricular ejection fraction
6. Other forms of CSA
7. CPAP or adaptive support ventilation (ASV) in patients with opioid-induced SDB
8. Awareness of trials in progress to assess O₂ therapy in patients with CSA and the further role of ASV

Module 13. OHS

1. Pathophysiology
2. Symptoms, clinical presentation and classification
3. Consequences (vascular disease, polycythemia and cor pulmonale)
4. Indications for CPAP and non-invasive ventilation (NIV); application or supervision of a mask and interface
5. Description of the illness and risk of obesity and offer advice about how to decrease body mass index through physical activity, training and diet.
6. Pharmacotherapy as add on in weight reduction programmes.
7. Role of bariatric surgery, preoperative assessment surgical risk and postoperative management in OHS patients

Module 14. Neuromuscular disease

1. Neuromuscular diseases that cause respiratory failure
2. Neuromuscular conditions associated with respiratory muscle weakness
3. Methods to assess respiratory muscle weakness: spirometry, mouth pressures, peak cough flow, sniff inspiratory pressure, diaphragm electromyographic studies [and diaphragmatic ultrasound](#)
4. Symptoms and signs of nocturnal hypoventilation and the probability of respiratory failure
5. Role of NIV *versus* invasive ventilation

6. Cough augmentation (cough assist) techniques
7. Use of NIV
8. Perioperative assessment and management of neuromuscular disease patients

Module 15. Chest wall disorders

1. Chest wall deformities that cause respiratory failure
2. Symptoms and signs of nocturnal hypoventilation and the probability of respiratory failure
3. Role of NIV *versus* invasive ventilation and cough augmentation (cough assist) techniques
4. Use of NIV

Module 16. Chronic respiratory failure

1. Causes of respiratory failure
2. Principles of interpretation of blood gas analysis
3. National and international treatment guidelines for acute and chronic hypercapnic respiratory failure
4. Indications for additional O₂ treatment
5. Indications for long-term (home) mechanical ventilation

Module 17. NIV (instead of assisted)

1. Treatment of ventilatory failure
2. Types of positive pressure ventilation and different modes, *e.g.* bi-level positive airway pressure, volume ventilation, assured volume ventilation (average volume assured pressure support and intelligent volume assured pressure support) and other NIV modes
3. Principles of therapy titration with sleep studies and ABG measurement
4. Monitoring of NIV adherence and concepts of its improvements
5. Assessment of compliance and reasons for poor and good compliance
6. Indications for tracheostomy ventilation and which patients to refer for this
7. Potential role of NIV in palliative care and the importance of palliative therapy
8. Use of advance directives in end-stage diseases

Module 18. Asthma/COPD/ILD and sleep

1. Prevalence of SDB in asthma COPD and ILD's
2. Symptoms, clinical presentation, pathophysiology and treatment of asthma, COPD restrictive and ILD's
3. Influence of comorbid respiratory disorders on breathing during sleep
4. Impact of drug therapy on sleep quality
5. Understand the role of CPAP therapy in overlap syndrome (COPD-OSAHS) asthma and ILD's

Module 19. Endocrine and metabolic disorders and SDB

1. Prevalence of OSA in patients with endocrine disorders (*e.g.* hypothyroidism and acromegaly) and metabolic disorders (*e.g.* diabetes mellitus and metabolic syndrome)
2. Impact of OSA treatment on underlying endocrine/metabolic disorders

Module 20. Non-respiratory sleep disorders

1. Consideration of non-respiratory sleep disorders and identify which patients to refer for further investigation
2. Insomnia
 - 2.1. Primary and secondary insomnia and management techniques including the role of cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia and medication
 - 2.2. Presence of insomnia in some OSA phenotypes (*e.g.*, COMISA) and its impact on comorbidities and on the choice of and adherence to therapy
3. Other conditions:
 - 3.1. Restless leg syndrome
 - 3.2. Narcolepsy, benign idiopathic hypersomnolence, parasomnias and associated conditions

Module 21. Assessment of excessive sleepiness

1. Principles of the tests for assessing excessive daytime somnolence in patients with respiratory and non-respiratory sleep conditions, their advantages, their limitations and which patients to refer for these, including:
 - 1.1. Sleep questionnaires

- 1.2. Sleep diary
- 1.3. Multiple sleep latency test (MSLT)
- 1.4. Maintenance of wakefulness test (MWT)
- 1.5. OSLEER wake test

Module 22. Circadian disorders

1. Principles of circadian rhythms and their impact on the sleep-wake cycle across a range of ages and influence of sex
2. Molecular basis of the circadian rhythm and its dysfunction in disease
3. Impact of circadian disruption such as shift work and jet lag
4. Interactions between work and SDB *e.g.* shift work
5. Other circadian disorders such as delayed and advanced sleep phase disorders
6. Role of interventions such as melatonin and bright-light therapy
7. Identification of patients to refer for actigraphy and the advantages and disadvantages of this investigation

Module 23. Medico-legal and organisational aspects

1. Medico-legal, social and economic impacts of respiratory sleep disorders
2. Role of various medical professions (including medical staff, psychologist, respiratory nurses and physiotherapist)
3. Patient empowerment/participation in care of sleep and breathing disorders

Module 24. Digital health in sleep and breathing disorders

1. Emerging technologies to monitor sleep and circadian rhythms
2. New digital diagnostic tools for SDB
3. Digital health innovations for optimisation of SDB therapy (*e.g.* telemedicine) acknowledging its utilities and limitations
4. Big data and artificial intelligence: opportunities and challenges

Module 25. Environmental and occupational impact on sleep and sleep breathing disorders (SBD):

1. Prevalence, pathophysiology and clinical approach
2. Treatment, intervention, mitigation
3. Disability, vocational considerations, Workers' Compensation considerations
4. Public health approach

Module 26. Epidemiological and statistical methods

1. General aspects of epidemiological and statistical methods for critical appraisal