

Sleep Apnea Facts and Figures

What is sleep-disordered breathing (SDB)?

SDB describes a number of breathing disorders that occur during sleep

- Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)
- Central sleep apnea (CSA)
- Nocturnal hypoventilation
- Cheyne—Stokes respiration (CSR)

What is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)?

- A partial or complete collapse of the upper airway caused by relaxation of the muscles controlling the soft palate and tongue
- Person experiences apneas, hypopneas and flow limitation
 - Apnea: a cessation of airflow for ≥10 seconds
 - Hypopnea: a decrease in airflow lasting ≥10 seconds with a 30% oxygen reduction in airflow and with at least a 4% oxygen desaturation from baseline
 - Flow limitation: narrowing of the upper airway and an indication of an impending upper airway closure





Partial Obstruction

Blocked Airway

Signs and Symptoms of Sleep Apnea

- Lack of energy
- Morning headaches
- Frequent nocturnal urination
- Depression
- Large neck size
- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Nighttime gasping, choking or coughing
- Gastroesophageal reflux (GE reflux)
- Irregular breathing during sleep (eg, snoring)

Classification of sleep apnea

Apnea-hypopnea index (AHI)

- Number of apneas and/or hypopneas per hour of sleep (or study time)
- Reflects the severity of sleep apnea

AHI = 0-5 Normal range

AHI = 5-15 Mild sleep apnea

AHI = 15-30 Moderate sleep apnea

AHI > 30 Severe sleep apnea

Prevalence of sleep apnea

- Approximately 42 million American adults have SDB¹
- 1 in 5 adults has mild OSA²
- 1 in 15 has moderate to severe OSA²
- 9% of middle-aged women and 25% of middle-aged men suffer from OSA³
- Prevalence similar to asthma (20 million) and diabetes (23.6 million) of US population⁴
- 75% of severe SDB cases remain undiagnosed⁵



Increased risk factors for sleep apnea

- Male gender
- Obesity (BMI >30)
- Diagnosis of hypertension
- Excessive use of alcohol or sedatives
- Upper airway or facial abnormalities
- Smoking
- Family history of OSA
- Large neck circumference (>17" men; >16" women)
- Endocrine and metabolic disorders

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Hypertension links

- Studies have shown that sleep apnea is an independent risk factor for hypertension
- 30-83% of patients with hypertension have sleep apnea^{6,12}
- 43% of patients with mild OSA and 69% of patients with severe OSA have hypertension⁵
- AHA guidelines on drug-resistant hypertension have shown treatment of sleep apnea with CPAP likely to improve blood pressure control



Stroke risk

- 65% of stroke patients have SDB¹⁴
- Up to 70% of patients in rehabilitation therapy following stroke have significant SDB (AHI >10)15

Health care costs (Economic consequences of untreated SDB)

- Undiagnosed patients used \$200,000 more in the two-year period prior to diagnosis than matched controls¹⁶
- Prior to sleep apnea diagnosis, patients utilized 23–50% more medical resources17
- Total economic cost of sleepiness = approximately \$43–56 billion¹⁸
- Undiagnosed moderate to severe sleep apnea in middle-aged adults may cause \$3.4 billion in additional medical costs in the US15

Treatment of OSA with MRD

- Mandibular repositioning device (MRD) is a custom made, adjustable, oral appliance (available from a dentist) that maintains the lower jaw in a forward position during sleep. This mechanical protrusion widens the space behind the tongue and reduces the vibration and physical obstruction to breathing and the tendency to snore.
- MRD treatment offers significant improvement of sleep apnea symptoms including sleepiness, quality of life, systolic or diastolic blood pressure and cognitive performance20
- MRDs offer an equally efficacious alternative in mild to moderate OSA patients who are not compliant or refuse CPAP therapy²¹
- MRDs are indicated as primary treatment for patients with mild to moderate OSA²²
- Mandibular advancement can increase upper airway capacity by 50-75% with maximum mandibular protrusion²³
- OSA is a chronic condition; MRD or CPAP treatment must be used nightly

Untreated OSA patient



Patient treated with Narval™CC



Traffic accidents

- People with moderate to severe sleep apnea have an up to 15-fold increase of being involved in a traffic accident²⁴
- People with sleep apnea are at twice the risk of having a traffic accident²⁵
- Treating all US drivers suffering from sleep apnea would save \$11.1 billion in collision costs and save 980 lives annually²⁶

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