

Longer anesthesia duration tied to more surgical complications

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"Avoidance of excessive blood loss and prolonged anesthesia time should be the goal when performing head and neck free flap surgery," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Increased anesthesia duration is associated with significantly increased rates of surgical complications, especially the need for postoperative transfusion, among patients undergoing microvascular reconstruction of the head and neck, according to a study published online Oct. 5 in *JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery*.

Jacob S. Brady, from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark, and colleagues used the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program database to identify 630 patients who underwent head and neck microvascular reconstruction between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2013. Patients were characterized based on mean [anesthesia](#) duration.

The researchers found that increasing anesthesia duration was associated with increased 30-day complications overall ($P = 0.006$), increased 30-day postoperative [surgical complications](#) overall (P duration).

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