

1       **Association Between Night-time Surgery and**  
2       **Occurrence of Intraoperative Adverse Events**  
3       **and Postoperative Pulmonary Complications –**  
4       **a posthoc analysis of LAS VEGAS**

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6       Andrea Cortegiani<sup>1</sup>, Cesare Gregoretti<sup>1</sup>, Ary Serpa Neto<sup>2,3</sup>, Sabine NT Hemmes<sup>2,4</sup>,  
7       Lorenzo Ball<sup>5,6</sup>, Jaime Cane<sup>7</sup>, Michael Hiesmayr<sup>8</sup>, Markus W. Hollmann<sup>4</sup>, Gary H  
8       Mills<sup>9</sup>, Marcos F. Vidal Melo<sup>10</sup>, Christian Putensen<sup>11</sup>, Werner Schmid<sup>8</sup>, Paolo  
9       Severgnini<sup>12</sup>, Hermann Wrigge<sup>13</sup>, Marcelo Gama de Abreu<sup>14</sup>, Marcus J. Schultz<sup>2,15</sup>,  
10       and Paolo Pelosi<sup>5,6</sup> for the LAS VEGAS\* investigators\*\*, the PROVE Network\*\*\* and  
11       the Clinical Trial Network of the European Society of Anaesthesiology

12  
13       \*Local ASsessment of VEntilatory management during General Anaesthesia for  
14       Surgery' study

15       \*\*Collaborators are listed in the online supplement

16       \*\*\*PROtective VEntilation Network ([www.provenet.eu](http://www.provenet.eu))

17  
18       **Policlinico Paolo Giaccone, University of Palermo, Italy**

19       <sup>1</sup>Department of Bipathology and Medical Biotechnologies (DIBIMED). Section of  
20       Anesthesia Analgesia Intensive Care and Emergency.

21  
22       **Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

23       <sup>2</sup>Department of Intensive Care & Laboratory of Experimental Intensive Care and  
24       Anesthesia (L·E·I·C·A)

25       <sup>4</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology

26  
27       **Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, São Paulo, Brazil**

28       <sup>3</sup>Department of Critical Care Medicine

29  
30       <sup>5</sup>**Dipartimento di Scienze Chirurgiche e Diagnostiche Integrate (DISC),**  
31       **Università degli Studi di Genova, Genova, Italy**

32  
33       <sup>6</sup>**IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino, Genova, Italy**

34  
35       **Hospital Universitari Germans Trias I Pujol, Barcelona, Spain**

36       <sup>7</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Postoperative Care

37  
38       **Medical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria**

39       <sup>8</sup>Division Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular Anesthesia and Intensive Care

40  
41       **Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield and University of Sheffield, United**  
42       **Kingdom**

43       <sup>9</sup>Operating Services, Critical Care and Anesthesia

44  
45       **Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, U.S.A.**

46       <sup>10</sup>Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine

1 **University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany**

2 <sup>11</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

3  
4 **University of Insubria, Varese, Italy**

5 <sup>12</sup>Department of Biotechnology and Sciences of Life, ASST- Settelaghi Ospedale di  
6 Circolo e Fondazione Macchi

7  
8 **University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany**

9 <sup>13</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

10  
11 **University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden,**  
12 **Dresden, Germany**

13 <sup>14</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Pulmonary  
14 Engineering Group

15  
16 **Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand**

17 <sup>15</sup>Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU)

18  
19  
20 \*LAS VEGAS (the 'Local ASsessment of VEntilatory management during General  
21 Anesthesia for Surgery study')

22  
23 \*\*The PROVE Network; the PROtective VEntilation Network ([www.provenet.eu](http://www.provenet.eu))

24  
25  
26 Collaborators are listed in the Appendix A.

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36  
37  
38 **Corresponding author:**

39 Dr. Andrea Cortegiani

40 Department of Biopathology and Medical Biotechnologies (DIBIMED)

41 Policlinico Paolo Giaccone, University of Palermo

42 Via del Vespro 129

43 90127 Palermo, Italy

44 Email: [andrea.cortegiani@unipa.it](mailto:andrea.cortegiani@unipa.it)

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Background:** The aim of this posthoc analysis of the LAS VEGAS cohort was to  
3 evaluate the association between night-time surgery and occurrence of intraoperative  
4 adverse events (AEs) and postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs).

5 **Methods:** LAS VEGAS was a conveniently-sized prospective international 1-week  
6 study that enrolled adult patients undergoing mechanical ventilation during  
7 anaesthesia for surgery in 146 hospitals across 29 countries. For this analysis, time  
8 slots were defined as 'day-time' (induction of anaesthesia between 8:00 AM and 7:59  
9 PM) or 'night-time' (between 8:00 PM and 7:59 AM).

10 **Results:** Of 9,861 included patients, 555 (5.6%) underwent surgery during night-  
11 time. The proportion of patients who developed intraoperative AEs was higher during  
12 night-time surgery in an unmatched (43.6% vs 34.1%;  $P<0.001$ ) and a propensity-  
13 matched analyses (43.7% vs 36.8%;  $P=0.029$ ). PPCs occurred more often in  
14 patients who underwent night-time surgery than patients who underwent day-time  
15 surgery (14% vs. 10%;  $P=0.004$ ) in an unmatched cohort analysis, though not in a  
16 propensity-matched analysis (13.8% vs. 11.8%;  $P=0.39$ ). In a multivariate regression  
17 model including patient demographics, and types of surgery and anaesthesia, night-  
18 time surgery was independently associated with a higher incidence of intraoperative  
19 AEs [OR 1.44 (95% CI 1.09-1.9);  $P=0.01$ ], but not with a higher incidence of PPCs  
20 [OR 1.32 (95% CI 0.89-1.9);  $P=0.152$ ].

21 **Conclusions:** Intraoperative AEs and PPCs occur more often in patients undergoing  
22 night-time surgery. Unbalances in clinical characteristics of patients, types of surgery,  
23 and intraoperative management at night-time may explain the higher incidence of  
24 PPCs, but not the higher incidence of AEs.

- 1 **MESH Keywords:** Intraoperative complications, Patient safety, Postoperative
- 2 complications
- 3 **Trial registration:** LAS VEGAS study was registered at [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)
- 4 (registration number NCT01601223)
- 5

## 1 **Background**

2 The literature on the impact of timing of surgery on the occurrence of intraoperative  
3 adverse events (AEs) and patients' outcome has been conflicting.<sup>1-6</sup> For instance,  
4 performance of a surgical team during night-time could be affected by human factors,  
5 including mental or physical fatigues and reduced alertness that may increase the  
6 risk of adverse events and intraoperative complications.<sup>7-11</sup> However, also logistic  
7 factors such as lower number of available healthcare workers, lack of the most skilled  
8 colleagues and even suboptimal early postoperative care may affect night-time  
9 working. In addition, these factors may lower adherence to 'best practices' and  
10 guidelines potentially leading to an higher incidence of perioperative adverse  
11 events.<sup>3-5,12</sup> Postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs) are associated with  
12 morbidity and mortality in the perioperative period.<sup>13,14</sup> Beyond patients' clinical  
13 characteristics, occurrence of intraoperative complications and PPCs may depend on  
14 several factors related to type of surgery and intraoperative management.<sup>15,16</sup>

15 Knowledge on the exact incidence of intraoperative AEs and PPCs according  
16 to surgery scheduled at different time-slots remains uncertain. We aimed to address  
17 the occurrence of intraoperative AEs and PPCs, and to determine the association  
18 with timing of surgery, in patients who underwent night-time vs day-time surgeries.  
19 Therefore, we analysed the 'Local ASsessment of VEntilatory management during  
20 General Anaesthesia for Surgery study' (LAS VEGAS) cohort.<sup>17</sup> We hypothesized  
21 that occurrence of intraoperative AEs and PPCs depend on timing of surgery.

22

## 1 **Methods**

2 This was a posthoc analysis of LAS VEGAS, a prospective observational  
3 international 1-week study aimed to describe epidemiology and ventilation practice in  
4 operating room and the incidence of intraoperative AEs and PPCs.<sup>17</sup>

### 5 *Cohort description*

6 LAS VEGAS enrolled adult patients requiring intraoperative ventilation (via either an  
7 endotracheal tube or supraglottic device) during general anaesthesia for either  
8 elective or non-elective surgery (excluding thoracic surgery) in 146 hospitals across  
9 29 countries over a period of 7 days. Exclusion criteria were: age less than 18 years,  
10 pregnancy related surgery, surgical procedures outside the operating room,  
11 procedures involving cardiopulmonary bypass.

### 12 *Timeslots*

13 For the purpose of this posthoc analysis, we categorized patients according to start of  
14 anaesthesia registered in the LAS VEGAS-case report form (CRF). Procedures that  
15 started with induction of anaesthesia between 08:00 AM and 7:59 PM were  
16 considered 'day-time' surgeries, and those between 8:00 PM and 7:59 AM 'night-  
17 time' surgeries.

### 18 *Outcomes definition and data reporting*

19 The primary outcomes of this posthoc analysis were the incidence of collapsed  
20 composite of intraoperative AEs and incidence of collapsed composite of PPCs.

21 Intraoperative AEs included: 1) desaturation ( $SpO_2 < 92\%$  for more than 2  
22 minutes); 2) need for unplanned lung recruitment manoeuvres (defined as ventilator  
23 strategies aimed to restore aeration of the lungs); 3) hypotension (systolic arterial  
24 blood pressure  $< 90$  mmHg for 3 minutes or longer); 4) use of vasoactive drugs to  
25 correct hypotension; 5) new onset of expiratory flow limitation (expiratory flow higher

1 than zero at end expiration as suggested by visual analysis of flow curve); 6) need for  
2 ventilator pressure reduction (defined as ventilatory strategies aimed to lower peak  
3 and plateau pressure); and 7) onset of new arrhythmias (atrial fibrillation, sustained  
4 ventricular tachycardia, supraventricular tachycardia, or ventricular fibrillation).

5 PPCs were defined as before<sup>17</sup>: 1) unplanned need of supplementary oxygen  
6 (oxygen administered due to  $\text{PaO}_2 < 8$  kPa or  $\text{SpO}_2 < 90\%$  in room air, but excluding  
7 oxygen supplementation given as standard care, e.g. directly after arrival in the post-  
8 anaesthetic care unit); 2) respiratory failure ( $\text{PaO}_2 < 8$  kPa or  $\text{SpO}_2 < 90\%$  despite  
9 oxygen therapy, or a need for non-invasive positive pressure ventilation); 3)  
10 unplanned new or prolonged invasive mechanical ventilation (after discharge from  
11 the operating room); 4) Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) (defined  
12 according to the Berlin definition of ARDS)<sup>18</sup>; 5) pneumonia (presence of a new or  
13 progressive radiographic infiltrate and at least two of three clinical features; fever  $>$   
14  $38^\circ\text{C}$  or  $> 100.4^\circ\text{F}$ , leucocytosis or leucopenia (WBC count  $>12000$  cells/mL or  
15  $<4000$  cells/mL and purulent secretions); and 6) pneumothorax (air in the pleural  
16 space with no vascular bed surrounding in the visceral pleura on the chest  
17 radiograph). Severe PPCs were defined by excluding the variable 'unplanned need of  
18 supplementary oxygen' from the composite.

19 Other reported data were preoperative data as patients' characteristics,  
20 American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) classification, preoperative  $\text{SpO}_2$ ,  
21 relevant comorbidities, 'type of surgery' (i.e. laparoscopic or non-laparoscopic),  
22 duration of surgery and anaesthesia, ventilator management and ventilation  
23 parameters (e.g. tidal volume, peak and plateau pressure, compliance, respiratory  
24 rate, positive end-expiratory pressure – PEEP, and driving pressure [calculated by  
25 subtracting PEEP from plateau pressure] and intraoperative management (e.g., fluids

1 administered, neuromuscular blockade management, transfusions, epidural  
2 anaesthesia).

### 3 *Statistical analysis*

4 Patients were stratified according to the different timeslots described above.  
5 Ventilation settings were presented for all patients and were standardized as the  
6 median during the procedure according to the number of observations. No  
7 adjustment for multiplicity was applied across the analyses. Therefore, the results do  
8 not claim confirmatory statistical evidence.

9         Hourly-collected variables, including tidal volume ( $V_T$ ) size, PEEP level, peak  
10 and plateau pressure level *or* maximum airway pressure level (where available),  
11 respiratory rate, oxygen fraction of inspired air ( $FiO_2$ ), and calculated variables  
12 including driving pressure levels and compliance, were presented as medians with  
13 their interquartile ranges.  $V_T$  size was presented as absolute volume (ml) and volume  
14 normalized for predicted body weight ( $ml\ kg^{-1}\ PBW$ ). The PBW of male patients was  
15 calculated as equal to  $50 + 0.91 \cdot (\text{centimetres of height} - 152.4)$ ; that of female  
16 patients was calculated as equal to  $45.5 + 0.91 \cdot (\text{centimetres of height} - 152.4)$ . As  
17 amounts of missing data were low (see Appendix B for the rate of missing data for  
18 specific variables), no assumptions were made for missing data. Proportions were  
19 compared using  $\chi^2$  or Fisher exact tests and continuous variables were compared  
20 using the Student's *t*-test or Wilcoxon rank sum test, as appropriate.

21         We performed a logistic regression analysis to detect whether the risk of  
22 intraoperative AEs and PPCs was different according to the time of surgery (night vs.  
23 day) and to adjust for potential confounding factors (demographic and perioperative  
24 data). Variables were selected to be included in the multivariable model according to  
25 clinical relevance and when a  $P < 0.2$  was found in the univariable analysis. We also



1 tested the interaction between the time of surgery and whether or not surgery was  
2 laparoscopic ('type of surgery'). To check the consistency of the findings, a covariate  
3 balancing propensity score (CBPS) matching was performed. The CBPS is a robust  
4 method which concurrently maximizes the covariate balance and the treatment  
5 assignment prediction. The CBPS was used to estimate the probability of being  
6 operated during day-time or during night-time considering several baseline  
7 covariates. One-to-two near neighbour matching without replacement was performed.  
8 A caliper of 0.1 was specified to constrain the difference between pairs. The following  
9 variables were used to construct the propensity score: 'Assess Respiratory Risk in  
10 Surgical Patients in Catalonia' (ARISCAT) risk score for PPCs <sup>19</sup>, ASA class, age,  
11 functional status, cancer, pre-operative red blood cell transfusion, duration of surgery,  
12 BMI (body mass index), pre-operative SpO<sub>2</sub>, smoking, chronic obstructive pulmonary  
13 disease, chronic kidney diseases, heart failure, obstructive apnoea, respiratory  
14 infection, type of surgery, condition of surgery, duration of anaesthesia, epidural  
15 anaesthesia, antibiotic prophylaxis, fluid intake and transfusion during surgery.  
16 Kaplan-Meier curves were used to estimate the cumulative incidence of PPCs until  
17 day 5, hospital discharge and survival at day 28.

18 Statistical significance was considered to be at 2-sided  $p < 0.05$ . All analyses  
19 were performed with R v.3.4.1 (<http://www.R-project.org/>).

20

## 1 **Results**

### 2 *Unmatched cohort*

3 Of 9,861 included patients, 9,306 (94.4%) underwent surgery during day-time and  
4 555 during night-time (5.6%). Table 1 shows patients' characteristics, preoperative  
5 evaluation and data related to type of surgery presented in day and night-time  
6 groups. Night-time patients had higher ASA class scores, higher ARISCAT scores,  
7 were more partially dependent, and more frequently suffered from heart failure. Table  
8 2 shows surgery characteristics and intraoperative management. Night-time  
9 surgeries more often involved urgent and emergency surgeries, even though there  
10 was also a relevant proportion (74.2%) of elective surgeries. Moreover, in the night-  
11 time the duration of both anaesthesia and surgery were significantly longer. During  
12 night-time patients received significantly more fluids, mainly crystalloid and colloid,  
13 more patients received antibiotic prophylaxis, and less patients received  
14 neuromuscular block reversal despite a similar use of neuromuscular blocking agents  
15 (NMBA). Concerning ventilation, we did not detect a clinically relevant difference in  
16 ventilator settings and parameters between day and night-time.

### 17 *Intraoperative adverse events*

18 The proportion of patients who developed intraoperative AEs was higher during  
19 night-time (n = 242 (43.6%) compared to day-time n = 3,165 (34.1%);  $P < 0.001$ ) (table  
20 3). Table 4 shows the results of the logistic regression analysis for occurrence of  
21 intraoperative complications. Night-time surgery was independently associated with a  
22 higher incidence of intraoperative AEs [OR 1.44 (95% CI 1.09-1.9);  $P = 0.01$ ]. There  
23 was no interaction between time of surgery and whether or not surgery was  
24 laparoscopic in the occurrence of intraoperative AEs ( $P = 0.460$ ).

### 25 *Postoperative pulmonary complications*

1 PPCs occurred more frequent in patients who underwent surgery during night-time (n  
2 = 77 (14%) in night-time vs n = 926 (10%) in day-time;  $P=0.004$ ) (Table 3). Table 5  
3 shows the results of the logistic regression analysis for occurrence of PPCs. Night-  
4 time surgery was not associated with a higher incidence of PPCs [OR 1.32 (95% CI  
5 0.89-1.9);  $P=0.152$ ]. Also with respect to occurrence of PPCs, there was no  
6 interaction between the time of surgery and whether or not surgery was laparoscopic  
7 ( $P=0.118$ ). There was a significant difference in the cumulative incidence of PPCs  
8 between the night-time and day-time groups till day 5 ( $P=0.017$ ; Fig. 1).

#### 9 *Hospital discharge and survival*

10 Hospital length of stay was longer and mortality at 28 days was higher in patients  
11 who underwent surgery at night-time (Table 3). There was also a significant  
12 difference in the cumulative incidence for hospital discharge at 28 days ( $P<0.0001$ ;  
13 Fig. S1 – Appendix B), but not for survival ( $P=0.17$ ; Fig. S2 – Appendix B) between  
14 the night-time and day-time patients.

#### 15 *Matched analysis*

16 After matching, 757 patients were included in the day-time group and 380 in the  
17 night-time group. The two groups were well balanced in terms of patients'  
18 characteristics, preoperative data, and data related to surgery in the matched cohort  
19 (supplementary material - Table S1). However, patients in the night-time group more  
20 frequently received NMBAs and less NBMA reversal (Table S2 – Appendix B).  
21 Intraoperative AEs remained significantly more frequent in the night-time. On the  
22 contrary, the proportion of patients developing PPCs was not statistically different  
23 between night and day-time (Table S3 – Appendix B). We found no difference  
24 between day and night-time in hospital length of stay and mortality (Table S3 –

- 1 Appendix B), cumulative incidence for PPCs, hospital discharge and survival in the
- 2 propensity matched analysis (Fig. S3, Fig. S4, Fig. S5 – Appendix B).
- 3

## 1 **Discussion**

2 The main results of the present study are: 1) intraoperative AEs occurred significantly  
3 more frequently during night-time, even after correcting for confounding factors, i.e.,  
4 patients' characteristics, type of surgery and anaesthesia characteristics; 2) PPCs  
5 occurred more frequently in patients undergoing surgery during night-time; however,  
6 3) after adjusting, night-time surgery was not independently associated with  
7 occurrence of PPCs. To the best of our knowledge this is the first study addressing  
8 differences in occurrence of common intraoperative AEs and PPCs during night vs.  
9 day-time surgery in a large prospectively enrolled cohort of patients.

10 It can be hypothesized that human factors or logistic factors leading to loss in  
11 alertness, team-working, performance and quality of care, may have contributed to  
12 the higher occurrence of intraoperative AEs during night-time.<sup>8,9,11,20,21</sup> One study  
13 evaluated 13 pairs of day-night matched anaesthesia cases performed by  
14 anaesthesiologists in training.<sup>21</sup> The authors found significantly worse task  
15 performances, such as manual tasks and monitoring tasks, and mood which may be  
16 attributable to fatigue during night work.<sup>21</sup> These findings were confirmed in another  
17 study demonstrating an increased reaction time due to sleep deprivation in 21  
18 anesthesiologists.<sup>22</sup> In a prospective analysis of recorded cases, night-time obstetric  
19 epidural anaesthesia was associated with an higher risk of unintentional puncture of  
20 the dura.<sup>7</sup> The authors speculated that these findings may be explained by human  
21 factors such as fatigue, sleep interruption or deprivation.<sup>7</sup>

22 Our findings are in line with other studies reporting an association between  
23 perioperative adverse events and timing of surgery.<sup>3-5</sup> Interestingly, there is also a  
24 known association between late-afternoon anaesthesia start time and anaesthetic  
25 adverse events (i.e. pain and postoperative nausea and vomiting).<sup>23</sup> However, a

1 recent retrospective analysis of the American College of Surgeons' National Surgical  
2 Quality Improvement Program administrative dataset evaluated intraoperative AEs  
3 during night-time.<sup>24</sup> The authors found that night-time surgery was not independently  
4 associated with a higher risk of intraoperative adverse events. Of note, the outcome  
5 of adverse events was generally defined as 'an injury caused by medical  
6 management rather than the underline disease'.<sup>24</sup>

7 We hypothesized that different anaesthesia and ventilator management or  
8 patients' comorbidity and surgical conditions could differentiate night and day-time  
9 working and that this may contribute to a higher incidence of PPCs. The number of  
10 patients in specific surgery categories was too low to evaluate thoroughly the effect  
11 of timing of the intervention of each surgical procedure. However, our analysis  
12 suggests there was no effect of whether or not the surgery was laparoscopic on the  
13 association between timing of surgery and occurrence of intraoperative AEs or PPCs.  
14 Of note, 'type of surgery' was a variable used in the propensity score matching.

15 We did not find a clinically relevant difference in ventilator management and  
16 ventilator settings between day- and night-time surgery. However, the night-time  
17 group had higher ARISCAT scores, mainly due to preoperative SpO<sub>2</sub>, higher  
18 proportions of urgent and emergency surgery, and longer duration of surgery.<sup>19</sup>  
19 Moreover, the proportion of NMBA reversal was significantly less during night-time  
20 versus day-time. Residual neuromuscular blockade has been found associated with  
21 pulmonary complications in the postoperative period after use muscle relaxant  
22 agents.<sup>25,26</sup> We could hypothesize that lower use of NMBAs reversal could favour  
23 development of PPCs,<sup>26</sup> although we could not collect data on how NMBA reversal  
24 was given (i.e. adherence to guidelines in terms of drugs and dosage). These factors,

1 along with several unbalances in patients' comorbidities between night and day  
2 working, may explain the different incidence of PPCs.

3         Since the result of this posthoc analysis suggests that timing of surgery  
4 impacts outcome of patients, it seems imperative to make the balance between risks  
5 and benefits case by case. It could be argued that surgery outside working hours  
6 should only be done if this is normal practice, meaning that the teams responsible  
7 are incorporated and prepared to perform these surgeries during these time-slots.  
8 Otherwise, risk scores, alike the ARISCAT<sup>19</sup> or the LAS VEGAS<sup>27</sup> risk scores for  
9 PPCs, could be useful in predicting which patients run the highest risk of developing  
10 PPCs, even when performed during night-time, to help to determine the balance  
11 between risks and benefits. Future studies should focus on human and logistic  
12 factors related to nigh-time surgeries.

### 13 *Strengths and limitations*

14 Strengths of the study are the size and the prospective, multicentre design of the  
15 original dataset; the strict criteria used to define intraoperative complications and  
16 PPCs; the correction of the results for multiple potential confounders related to  
17 patients' characteristics, type of surgery, type of anaesthesia and intraoperative  
18 management.

19         The findings of this posthoc analysis should be considered in light of some  
20 limitations. First, we selected the day and night-time slots according to the time of  
21 anaesthesia induction.<sup>1</sup> This criterion may have resulted in strict categorization of  
22 patients who underwent surgeries during both day and night. However, the time of  
23 induction seemed to be a reasonable factor since the very early phase of the  
24 anaesthesia and surgery needs an active and focused performance by the whole  
25 operating room team, especially by the anaesthesiologist, which may be affected by

1 factors related to night working (e.g. fatigue, lack of concentration, team members  
2 shortage, and other logistic issues). Moreover, the choice of the induction scheme  
3 and the selection of ventilatory settings at the beginning of mechanical ventilation  
4 may have an influence on the subsequent risk of developing PPCs. The time limits of  
5 8 am - 8 pm were selected by consensus among authors to consider the day and  
6 night shifts of the majority of anaesthesiologists and surgical teams worldwide. LAS  
7 VEGAS failed to collect data regarding factors like level of training, year of training,  
8 and experience of anaesthesiologists and surgeons. Also, the hours on duty when  
9 performing anaesthesia or surgical procedures were not collected.<sup>17</sup> Consequently,  
10 we can only speculated on such factors, which without doubt play a role. The  
11 multicentre design of the study led to the inclusion of centres with different  
12 characteristics, experience, as well as approaches to night working. Actually, 74% of  
13 patients in the night-time group underwent elective surgery. However, LAS VEGAS  
14 failed to collect data regarding such important factors, hampering further analysis.  
15 Finally, definitive inference is not possible due to the pure observational design of  
16 LAS VEGAS. Thus, our results can only be seen as hypothesis generating, and  
17 future studies are needed to establish causal relationships, if any.

18



1 **Conclusions**

2 Intraoperative AEs and PPCs occur more frequently in patients undergoing night-time  
3 surgery. Unbalanced clinical characteristics of patients, surgery and intraoperative  
4 management between day- and night-time may explain the occurrence of PPCs, but  
5 not intraoperative AEs.

6

1 **Figure legend**

2 **Fig. 1** – Kaplan-Meier estimate of cumulative incidence of PPCs in the day-time and  
3 night-time group till day 5 in the unmatched day- and night-time group.

4 **Authors' Contributions**

5 AC and ASN take responsibility for the integrity of data. AC, CG, ASN, SNH, MGA,  
6 LB, MJS, PP, designed this secondary analysis of the LAS VEGAS study, interpreted  
7 the results and drafted the manuscript. ASN performed the statistical analysis. SNH,  
8 ASN, JC, MH, MWH, GHM, MFVM, CP, WS, PS, HW, MGA, PP, MJS were  
9 members of the steering committee of the LAS VEGAS study, collected data,  
10 interpreted the results of this posthoc analysis and revised the manuscript critically  
11 for important intellectual content. All authors reviewed and approved the final version  
12 of this manuscript. All authors have agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the  
13 projects.

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18

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21 **Declaration of interest**

22 The authors have no conflict of interest to disclose for this manuscript.

23

- 1 **Appendix A. LAS VEGAS study Network Collaborators**  
2  
3 Austria  
4 **LKH Graz, Graz:** Wolfgang Kroell, Helfried Metzler, Gerd Struber, Thomas  
5 Wegscheider  
6 **AKH Linz, Linz:** Hans Gombotz  
7 **Medical University Vienna:** Michael Hiesmayr, Werner Schmid, Bernhard Urbanek  
8  
9 Belgium  
10 **UCL - Cliniques Universitaires Saint Luc Brussels:** David Kahn, Mona Momeni,  
11 Audrey Pospiech, Fernande Lois, Patrice Forget, Irina Grosu  
12 **University Hospital Brussels (UZ Brussel):** Jan Poelaert, Veerle van  
13 Mossevelde, Marie-Claire van Malderen  
14 **Het Ziekenhuis Oost Limburg (ZOL), Genk:** Dimitri Dylst, Jeroen van Melkebeek,  
15 Maud Beran  
16 **Ghent University Hospital, Gent:** Stefan de Hert, Luc De Baerdemaeker, Bjorn  
17 Heyse, Jurgen Van Limmen, Piet Wyffels, Tom Jacobs, Nathalie Roels, Ann De  
18 Bruyne  
19 **Maria Middelaers, Gent:** Stijn van de Velde  
20 **European Society of Anaesthesiology, Brussels:** Brigitte Leva, Sandrine  
21 Damster, Benoit Plichon  
22  
23 Bosnia and Herzegovina  
24 **General Hospital “prim Dr Abdulah Nakas” Sarajevo:** Marina Juros-Zovko,  
25 Dejana Djonović- Omanović  
26  
27 Croatia  
28 **General Hospital Cakovec, Cakovec:** Selma Pernar  
29 **General Hospital Karlovac, Karlovac:** Josip Zunic, Petar Miskovic, Antonio Zilic  
30 **University Clinical Hospital Osijek, Osijek:** Slavica Kvolik, Dubravka Ivic, Darija  
31 Azenic-Venzera, Sonja Skiljic, Hrvoje Vinkovic, Ivana Oputric  
32 **University Hospital Rijeka, Rijeka:** Kazimir Juricic, Vedran Frkovic  
33 **General Hospital Dr J Bencevic, Slavonski Brod:** Jasminka Kopic, Ivan Mirkovic

1 **University Hospital Center Split, Split:** Nenad Karanovic, Mladen Carev, Natasa  
2 Dropulic

3 **University Hospital Merkur, Zagreb:** Jadranka Pavicic Saric, Gorjana Erceg, Matea  
4 Bogdanovic Dvorscak

5 **University Hospital Sveti Duh, Zagreb:** Branka Mazul-Sunko, Anna Marija Pavicic,  
6 Tanja Goranovic

7 **University Hospital, Medical school, "Sestre milosrdnice" (Sister of Charity),**  
8 **Zagreb:** Branka Maldini, Tomislav Radocaj, Zeljka Gavranovic, Inga Mladic-Batinica,  
9 Mirna Sehovic

10

11 Czech Republic

12 **University Hospital Brno, Brno:** Petr Stourac, Hana Harazim, Olga Smekalova,  
13 Martina Kosinova, Tomas Kolacek, Kamil Hudacek, Michal Drab

14 **University Hospital Hradec Kralove, Hradec Kralove:** Jan Brujevic, Katerina  
15 Vitkova, Katerina Jirmanova

16 **University Hospital Ostrava, Ostrava:** Ivana Volfova, Paula Dzurnakova, Katarina  
17 Liskova

18 **Nemocnice Znojmo, Znojmo:** Radovan Dudas, Radek Filipicky

19

20 Egypt

21 **El Sahel Teaching hospital, Cairo:** Samir el Kafrawy

22 **Kasr Al-Ainy Medical School, Cairo University:** Hisham Hosny Abdelwahab,  
23 Tarek Metwally, Ahmed Abdel-Razek

24 **Beni Sueif University Hospital, Giza:** Ahmed Mostafa El-Shaarawy, Wael Fathy  
25 Hasan, Ahmed Gouda Ahmed

26 **Fayoum University Hospital, Giza:** Hany Yassin, Mohamed Magdy, Mahdy  
27 Abdelhady

28 **Suis medical Insurance Hospital, Suis:** Mohamed Mahran

29

30 Estonia

31 **North Estonia Medical Center, Tallinn:** Eiko Herodes, Peeter Kivik, Juri Oganjan,  
32 Annika Aun

33 **Tartu University Hospital, Tartu:** Alar Sormus, Kaili Sarapuu, Merilin Mall, Juri  
34 Karjagin

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France

**University Hospital of Clermont-Ferrand, Clermont-Ferrand:** Emmanuel Futier, Antoine Petit, Adeline Gerard

**Institut Hospitalier Franco-Britannique, Levallois-Perret:** Emmanuel Marret, Marc Solier

**Saint Eloi University Hospital, Montpellier:** Samir Jaber, Albert Prades

Germany

**Fachkrankenhaus Coswig, Coswig:** Jens Krassler, Simone Merzky

**University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden:** Marcel Gama de Abreu, Christopher Uhlig,

Thomas Kiss, Anette Bundy, Thomas Bluth, Andreas Gueldner, Peter Spieth, Martin Scharffenberg, Denny Tran Thiem, Thea Koch

**Duesseldorf University Hospital, Heinrich-Heine University:** Tanja Treschan, Maximilian Schaefer,

Bea Bastin, Johann Geib, Martin Weiss, Peter Kienbaum, Benedikt Pannen

**Diakoniekrankenhaus Friederikenstift, Hannover:** Andre Gottschalk, Mirja Konrad, Diana Westerheide, Ben Schwerdtfeger

**University of Leipzig, Leipzig:** Hermann Wrigge, Philipp Simon, Andreas Reske, Christian Nestler

Greece

**“Alexandra” general hospital of Athens, Athens:** Dimitrios Valsamidis, Konstantinos Stroumpoulis

**General air force hospital, Athens:** Georgios Antholopoulos, Antonis Andreou, Dimitris Karapanos

**Aretaieion University Hospital, Athens:** Kassiani Theodorak, Georgios Gkiokas, Marios-Konstantinos Tasoulis

**Attikon University Hospital, Athens:** Tatiana Sidiropoulou, Foteini Zafeiropoulou, Panagiota Florou, Aggeliki Pandazi

**Ahepa University Hospital Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki:** Georgia Tsaousi, Christos Nouris, Chryssa Pourzitaki,

- 1 Israel
- 2 ***The Lady Davis Carmel Medical Center, Haifa:*** Dmitri Bystritski, Reuven Pizov,  
3 Arieh Eden
- 4
- 5 Italy
- 6 ***Ospedale San. Paolo Bari, Bari:*** Caterina Valeria Pesce, Annamaria Campanile,  
7 Antonella Marrella
- 8 ***University of Bari “Aldo Moro”, Bari:*** Salvatore Grasso, Michele De Michele
- 9 ***Institute for Cancer Research and treatment, Candiolo, Turin:*** Francesco Bona,  
10 Gianmarco Giacoletto, Elena Sardo
- 11 ***Azienda Ospedaliera per l'emergenza Cannizzaro, Catania:*** Luigi Giancarlo Vicari  
12 Sottosanti
- 13 ***Ospedale Melegnano, Cernusco, Milano:*** Maurizio Solca
- 14 ***Azienda Ospedaliera – Universitaria Sant’Anna, Ferrara:*** Carlo Alberto Volta,  
15 Savino Spadaro, Marco Verri, Riccardo Ragazzi, Roberto Zoppellari
- 16 ***Ospedali Riuniti Di Foggia - University of Foggia, Foggia:*** Gilda Cinnella,  
17 Pasquale Raimondo, Daniela La Bella, Lucia Mirabella, Davide D'antini
- 18 ***IRCCS AOU San Martino IST Hospital, University of Genoa, Genoa:*** Paolo  
19 Pelosi, Alexandre Molin, Iole Brunetti, Angelo Gratarola, Giulia Pellerano, Rosanna  
20 Sileo, Stefano Pezzatto, Luca Montagnani
- 21 ***IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano:*** Laura Pasin, Giovanni Landoni,  
22 Alberto Zangrillo, Luigi Beretta, Ambra Licia Di Parma, Valentina Tarzia, Roberto  
23 Dossi, Marta Eugenia Sassone
- 24 ***Istituto europeo di oncologia – ieo, Milano:*** Daniele Sances, Stefano Tredici,  
25 Gianluca Spano, Gianluca Castellani, Luigi Delunas, Sopio Peradze, Marco  
26 Venturino
- 27 ***Ospedale Niguarda Ca'Granda Milano, Milano:*** Ines Arpino, Sara Sher
- 28 ***Ospedale San Paolo - University of Milano, Milano:*** Concezione Tommasino,  
29 Francesca Rapido, Paola Morelli
- 30 ***University of Naples “Federico II” Naples:*** Maria Vargas, Giuseppe Servillo
- 31 ***Policlinico “P. Giaccone”, Palermo:*** Andrea Cortegiani, Santi Maurizio Raineri,  
32 Francesca Montalto, Vincenzo Russotto, Antonino Giarratano
- 33 ***Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Parma:*** Marco Baciarello, Michela Generali,  
34 Giorgia Cerati

1 ***Santa Maria degli Angeli, Pordenone***: Yigal Leykin  
2 ***Ospedale Misericordia e Dolce - Usl4 Prato, Prato***: Filippo Bressan, Vittoria  
3 Bartolini, Lucia Zamidei  
4 ***University hospital of Sassari, Sassari***: Luca Brazzi, Corrado Liperi, Gabriele  
5 Sales, Laura Pistidda  
6 ***Insubria University, Varese***: Paolo Severgnini, Elisa Brugnoli, Giuseppe Musella,  
7 Alessandro Bacuzzi  
8  
9 Republic of Kosovo  
10 ***District hospital Gjakova, Gjakove***: Dalip Muhardri  
11 ***University Clinical Center of Kosova, Prishtina***: Agreta Gecaj-Gashi, Fatos Sada  
12 ***Regional Hospital "Prim.Dr. Daut Mustafa", Prizren***: Adem Bytyqi  
13  
14 Lithuania  
15 ***Medical University Hospital, Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health***  
16 ***Sciences, Kaunas***: Aurika Karbonskiene, Ruta Aukstakalniene, Zivile Teberaite,  
17 Erika Salciute  
18 ***Vilnius University Hospital - Institute of Oncology, Vilnius***: Renatas Tikuisis,  
19 Povilas Miliauskas  
20 ***Vilnius University Hospital - Santariskiu Clinics, Vilnius***: Sipylaite Jurate, Egle  
21 Kontrimaviciute, Gabija Tomkute  
22  
23 Malta  
24 ***Mater Dei Hospital, Msida***: John Xuereb, Maureen Bezzina, Francis Joseph Borg  
25  
26 The Netherlands  
27 ***Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam***: Sabrine Hemmes, Marcus  
28 Schultz, Markus Hollmann, Irene Wiersma, Jan Binnekade, Lieuwe Bos  
29 ***VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam***: Christa Boer, Anne Duvekot  
30 ***MC Haaglanden, Den Haag***: Bas in 't Veld, Alice Werger, Paul Dennesen,  
31 Charlotte Severijns  
32 ***Westfriesgasthuis, Hoorn***: Jasper De Jong, Jens Hering, Rienk van Beek  
33  
34 Norway

1 **Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen:** Stefan Ivars, Ib Jammer  
2 **Førde Central Hospital /Førde Sentral Sykehus, Førde:** Alena Breidablik  
3 **Martina Hansens Hospital, Gjøttum:** Katharina Skirstad Hodt, Frode Fjellanger,  
4 Manuel Vico Avalos  
5 **Bærum Hospital, Vestre Viken, Rud:** Jannicke Mellin-Olsen, Elisabeth Andersson  
6 **Stavanger University Hospital, Stavanger:** Amir Shafi-Kabiri  
7  
8 Panama  
9 **Hospital Santo Tomás, Panama:** Ruby Molina, Stanley Wutai, Erick Morais  
10  
11 Portugal  
12 **Hospital do Espírito Santo - Évora, E.P.E, Évora.:** Glória Tareco, Daniel Ferreira,  
13 Joana Amaral  
14 **Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Central, E.P.E, Lisboa.:** Maria de Lurdes Goncalves  
15 Castro, Susana Cadilha, Sofia Appleton  
16 **Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental, E.P.E. Hospital de S. Francisco Xavier,**  
17 **Lisboa:** Suzana Parente, Mariana Correia, Diogo Martins  
18 **Santarem Hospital, Santarem:** Angela Monteiro, Ana Ricardo, Sara Rodrigues  
19  
20 Romania  
21 **Spital Orasenesc, Bolintin Vale:** Lucian Horhota  
22 **Clinical Emergency Hospital of Bucharest, Bucharest:** Ioana Marina Grintescu,  
23 Liliana Mirea, Ioana Cristina Grintescu  
24 **Elias University Emergency Hospital, Bucharest:** Dan Corneci, Silvius Negoita,  
25 Madalina Dutu, Ioana Popescu Garotescu  
26 **Emergency Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Inst. "Prof. C. C. Iliescu",**  
27 **Bucharest:** Daniela Filipescu, Alexandru Bogdan Prodan  
28 **Fundeni Clinical institute - Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Bucharest:** Gabriela  
29 Droc, Ruxandra Fota, Mihai Popescu  
30 **Fundeni Clinical institute - Intensive Care Unit, Bucharest:** Dana Tomescu, Ana  
31 Maria Petcu, Marian Irinel Tudoroiu  
32 **Hospital Profesor D Gerota, Bucharest:** Alida Moise, Catalin-Traian Guran  
33 **Constanta County Emergency Hospital, Constanta:** Iorel Gherghina, Dan Costea,  
34 Iulia Cindea



1 **University Emergency County Hospital Targu Mures, Targu Mures:** Sanda-Maria  
2 Copotoiu, Ruxandra Copotoiu, Victoria Barsan, Zsolt Tolcser, Magda Riciu, Septimiu  
3 Gheorghe Moldovan, Mihaly Veres

4

5 Russia

6 **Krasnoyarsk State Medical University, Krasnoyarsk:** Alexey Gritsan, Tatyana  
7 Kapkan, Galina Gritsan, Oleg Korolkov

8 **Burdenko Neurosurgery Institute, Moscow:** Alexander Kulikov, Andrey Lubnin

9 **Moscow Regional Research Clinical Institute, Moscow:** Alexey Ovezov, Pavel  
10 Prokoshev, Alexander Lugovoy, Natalia Anipchenko

11 **Municipal Clinical Hospital 7, Moscow:** Andrey Babayants, Irina Komissarova,  
12 Karginova Zalina

13 **Reanimatology Research Institute n.a. Negovskij RAMS, Moscow:** Valery  
14 Likhvantsev, Sergei Fedorov

15

16 Serbia

17 **Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Emergency Center, Novisad:** Aleksandra Lazukic,  
18 Jasmina Pejakovic, Dunja Mihajlovic

19

20 Slovakia

21 **National Cancer Institute, Bratislava:** Zuzana Kusnierikova, Maria Zelinkova

22 **F.D. Roosevelt teaching Hospital, Banská Bystrica:** Katarina Bruncakova, Lenka  
23 Polakovicova

24 **Faculty Hospital Nové Zámky, Nové Zámky:** Villiam Sobona

25

26 Slovenia

27 **Institute of Oncology Ljubljana, Ljubljana:** Barbka Novak-Supe, Ana Pekle-Golez,  
28 Miroljub Jovanov, Branka Strazisar

29 **University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Ljubljana:** Jasmina Markovic-Bozic, Vesna  
30 Novak-Jankovic, Minca Voje, Andriy Grynyuk, Ivan Kostadinov, Alenka Spindler-  
31 Vesel

32

33 Spain

- 1 **Hospital Sant Pau, Barcelona:** Victoria Moral, Mari Carmen Unzueta, Carlos  
2 Puigbo, Josep Fava
- 3 **Hospital Universitari Germans Trias I Pujol, Barcelona:** Jaume Canet, Enrique  
4 Moret, Mónica Rodriguez Nunez, Mar Sendra, Andrea Brunelli, Frederic Rodenas
- 5 **University of Navarra, Pamplona:** Pablo Monedero, Francisco Hidalgo Martinez,  
6 Maria Jose Yepes Temino, Antonio Martínez Simon, Ana de Abajo Larriba
- 7 **Corporacion Sanitaria Parc Tauli, Sabadell:** Alberto Lisi, Gisela Perez, Raquel  
8 Martinez
- 9 **Consorcio Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, Valencia:** Manuel Granell,  
10 Jose Tatay Vivo, Cristina Saiz Ruiz, Jose Antonio de Andrés Ibañez
- 11 **Hospital Clinico Valencia, Valencia:** Ernesto Pastor, Marina Soro, Carlos  
12 Ferrando, Mario Defez
- 13 **Hospital Universitario Rio Hortega, Valladolid:** Cesar Aldecoa Alvares-Santullano,  
14 Rocio Perez, Jesus Rico
- 15
- 16 Sweden
- 17 **Central Hospital in Kristianstad:** Monir Jawad, Yousif Saeed, Lars Gillberg
- 18
- 19 Turkey
- 20 **Ufuk University Hospital Ankara, Ankara:** Zuleyha Kazak Bengisun, Baturay  
21 Kansu Kazbek
- 22 **Akdeniz University Hospital, Antalya:** Nesil Coskunfirat, Neval Boztug, Suat Sanli,  
23 Murat Yilmaz, Necmiye Hadimioglu
- 24 **Istanbul University, Istanbul medical faculty, Istanbul:** Nuzhet Mert Senturk,  
25 Emre Camci, Semra Kucukgoncu, Zerrin Sungur, Nukhet Sivrikoz
- 26 **Acibadem University, Istanbul:** Serpil Ustalar Ozgen, Fevzi Toraman
- 27 **Maltepe University, Istanbul:** Onur Selvi, Ozgur Senturk, Mine Yildiz
- 28 **Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, İzmir:** Bahar Kuvaki, Ferim Gunenc, Semih  
29 Kucukguclu, Şule Ozbilgin
- 30 **Şifa University Hospital, İzmir:** Jale Maral, Seyda Canli
- 31 **Selcuk University faculty of medicine, Konya:** Oguzhan Arun, Ali Saltali, Eyup  
32 Aydogan
- 33 **Fatih Sultan Mehmet Eğitim Ve Araştırma Hastanesi, Istanbul:** Fatma Nur Akgun,  
34 Ceren Sanlikarip, Fatma Mine Karaman

1  
2 Ukraine  
3 ***Institute Of Surgery And Transplantology, Kiev:*** Andriy Mazur  
4 ***Zaporizhzhia State Medical University, Zaporizhzhia:*** Sergiy Vorotyntsev  
5  
6 United Kingdom  
7 SWARM Research Collaborative: for full list of SWARM contributors please see  
8 [www.ukswarm.com](http://www.ukswarm.com)  
9 ***Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Barnstaple:*** Guy Rousseau, Colin Barrett,  
10 Lucia Stancombe  
11 ***Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank, Scotland:*** Ben Shelley, Helen  
12 Scholes  
13 ***Darlington Memorial Hospital, County Durham and Darlington Foundation NHS***  
14 ***Trust, Darlington:*** James Limb, Amir Rafi, Lisa Wayman, Jill Deane  
15 ***Royal Derby Hospital, Derby:*** David Rogerson, John Williams, Susan Yates, Elaine  
16 Rogers  
17 ***Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester:*** Mark Pulletz, Sarah Moreton, Stephanie  
18 Jones  
19 ***The Princess Alexandra NHS Hospital Trust, Essex:*** Suresh Venkatesh, Maudrian  
20 Burton, Lucy Brown, Cait Goodall  
21 ***Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter:*** Matthew Rucklidge,  
22 Debbie Fuller, Maria Nadolski, Sandeep Kusre  
23 ***Hospital James Paget University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Great***  
24 ***Yarmouth:*** Michael Lundberg, Lynn Everett, Helen Nutt  
25 ***Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Guildford:*** Maka Zuleika,  
26 Peter Carvalho, Deborah Clements, Ben Creagh-Brown  
27 ***Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Kettering:*** Philip Watt,  
28 Parizade Raymode  
29 ***Barts Health NHS Trust, Royal London Hospital, London:*** Rupert Pearse, Otto  
30 Mohr, Ashok Raj, Thais Creary  
31 ***Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust The Freeman Hospital High Heaton,***  
32 ***Newcastle upon Tyne:*** Ahmed Chishti, Andrea Bell, Charley Higham, Alistair Cain,  
33 Sarah Gibb, Stephen Mowat

1 ***Derriford Hospital Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Plymouth:*** Danielle Franklin,  
2 Claire West, Gary Minto, Nicholas Boyd  
3 ***Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield:*** Gary Mills, Emily Calton, Rachel Walker,  
4 Felicity Mackenzie, Branwen Ellison, Helen Roberts  
5 ***Mid Staffordshire NHS, Stafford:*** Moses Chikungwa, Clare Jackson  
6 ***Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton:*** Andrew Donovan, Jayne Foot, Elizabeth  
7 Homan  
8 ***South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust /Torbay Hospital, Torquay,***  
9 ***Torbay:*** Jane Montgomery, David Portch, Pauline Mercer, Janet Palmer  
10 ***Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro:*** Jonathan Paddle, Anna Fouracres, Amanda  
11 Datson, Alyson Andrew, Leanne Welch  
12 ***Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust; Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield:*** Alastair  
13 Rose, Sandeep Varma, Karen Simeson  
14 ***Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, West Bromich:*** Mrutyunjaya  
15 Rambhatla, Jaysimha Susarla, Sudhakar Marri, Krishnan Kodaganallur, Ashok Das,  
16 Shivarajan Algarsamy, Julie Colley  
17 ***York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, York:*** Simon Davies, Margaret  
18 Szewczyk, Thomas Smith  
19  
20 United States  
21 ***University of Colorado School of Medicine/University of Colorado Hospital,***  
22 ***Aurora:*** Ana Fernandez- Bustamante, Elizabeth Luzier, Angela Almagro  
23 ***Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston:*** Marcos Vidal Melo, Luiz Fernando,  
24 Demet Sulemanji  
25 ***Mayo Clinic, Rochester:*** Juraj Sprung, Toby Weingarten, Daryl Kor, Federica  
26 Scavonetto, Yeo Tze  
27

1 **Appendix B. Supplementary data**  
2

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**Table 1. Patient and surgical characteristic in the day-time and night-time unmatched groups**

	<b>Day-time (n=9,306)</b>	<b>Night-time (n=555)</b>	<b>P value</b>
Female sex	5124 (55.1)	299 (53.9)	0.615
Age (years)	53.00 [39.00, 66.00]	53.00 [38.25, 66.00]	0.676
BMI (kg m <sup>-2</sup> )	26.26 [23.38, 30.03]	25.69 [22.78, 29.44]	0.046
ASA class			0.001
1	2861 (30.8)	152 (27.5)	
2	4490 (48.4)	250 (45.2)	
3	1770 (19.1)	133 (24.1)	
4	155 (1.7)	18 (3.3)	
5	8 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	
ARISCAT score	16.00 [3.00, 31.00]	18.00 [3.00, 34.00]	<0.001
Functional status			0.051
Non dependent	8604 (92.5)	498 (89.7)	
Partially dependent	575 (6.2)	46 (8.3)	
Totally dependent	121 (1.3)	11 (2.0)	
Preoperative SpO <sub>2</sub> (%)	98.00 [96.00, 99.00]	98.00 [96.00, 99.00]	0.002
Preoperative anemia (Hb ≤ 10 g dl <sup>-1</sup> )	305 (3.9)	24 (5.1)	0.268
Smoking	2158 (23.2)	132 (23.8)	0.794
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	563 (6.0)	33 (5.9)	0.994
Cirrhosis	93 (1.0)	9 (1.6)	0.233
Cancer	365 (3.9)	27 (4.9)	0.321
Chronic kidney dysfunction	292 (3.1)	18 (3.2)	0.990
Heart failure	538 (5.8)	47 (8.5)	0.012
Obstructive sleep apnea	190 (2.0)	15 (2.7)	0.364
Neuromuscular disease <sup>a</sup>	83 (0.9)	5 (0.9)	1.000
Respiratory infection < 30 days	336 (3.6)	27 (4.9)	0.159
Red blood cell transfusion < 30 days	70 (0.8)	5 (0.9)	0.888
Preoperative Hb (g dl <sup>-1</sup> )	13.70 [12.60, 14.80]	13.54 [12.40, 14.80]	0.234
Preoperative creatinine (mg dl <sup>-1</sup> )	0.80 [0.70, 0.99]	0.81 [0.70, 0.98]	0.248
Urgency of surgery <sup>b</sup>			<0.001
Elective	8350 (89.7)	412 (74.2)	
Urgent	749 (8.1)	96 (17.3)	
Emergency	205 (2.2)	47 (8.5)	
Duration of surgery			<0.001
≤ 2 hours	6522 (70.2)	339 (61.2)	
2-3 hours	1805 (19.4)	108 (19.5)	
>3 hours	963 (10.4)	107 (19.3)	
Surgical procedure <sup>c</sup>			
Lower GI	1018 (10.9)	77 (13.9)	0.039
Upper GI	1277 (13.7)	80 (14.4)	0.692
Vascular surgery <sup>d</sup>	293 (3.1)	16 (2.9)	0.823
Aortic surgery	62 (0.7)	2 (0.4)	0.549
Neurosurgery, head and neck	1887 (20.3)	119 (21.4)	0.543



**Table 1. Patient and surgical characteristic in the day-time and night-time unmatched groups**

	<b>Day-time (n=9,306)</b>	<b>Night-time (n=555)</b>	<b>P value</b>
Urological and kidney	817 (8.8)	41 (7.4)	0.292
Gynaecological	1097 (11.8)	43 (7.7)	0.005
Endocrine surgery	187 (2.0)	7 (1.3)	0.282
Transplant	29 (0.3)	5 (0.9)	0.054
Plastic, cutaneous, breast	996 (10.7)	41 (7.4)	0.016
Bone, joint, trauma spine	1467 (15.8)	127 (22.9)	<0.001
Other procedures	553 (5.9)	32 (5.8)	0.937
<b>Surgical technique<sup>e</sup></b>			
Open abdominal surgery	1661 (17.8)	112 (20.2)	0.183
Laparoscopic surgery	1644 (17.7)	91 (16.4)	0.480
Laparoscopic assisted surgery	159 (1.7)	8 (1.4)	0.761
Peripheral surgery	1690 (18.2)	137 (24.7)	<0.001
Other	4212 (45.3)	214 (38.6)	0.002
Duration of anaesthesia <sup>f</sup> (min)	101.00 [65.00, 160.00]	118.00 [75.00, 200.75]	<0.001
Duration of surgery <sup>g</sup> (min)	72.00 [40.00, 122.00]	80.00 [50.00, 150.00]	<0.001

Data are presented as median [25th, 75th percentile] or event (%).

BMI: body mass index; ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists; Hb: haemoglobin; GI: gastrointestinal; SpO<sub>2</sub>: peripheral oxygen saturation

<sup>a</sup>Neuromuscular disease affecting the respiratory system. <sup>b</sup>Urgency of surgery: elective: surgery that is scheduled in advance because it does not involve a medical emergency, urgent: surgery required within <48 hours, emergency: nonelective surgery performed when the patient's life or well being is in direct jeopardy. <sup>c</sup>Surgical procedure: a patient can have more than one surgical procedure. <sup>d</sup>Vascular surgery is carotid endarterectomy, aortic surgery and peripheral vascular surgery taken together. <sup>e</sup>Surgical technique: surgical approach to the procedure. A patient can have more than one type of surgical technique. <sup>f</sup>Duration of anaesthesia is the time between start of induction and tracheal extubation or discharge from operation room if the mechanical ventilation continued. <sup>g</sup>Duration of surgery is the time between skin incision and closure of the incision.

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**Table 2. Intraoperative variables and ventilator parameters and settings in the unmatched day- and night-time groups**

	<b>Day-time (n=9,306)</b>	<b>Night-time (n=555)</b>	<b>P value</b>
Epidural	458 (4.9)	18 (3.2)	0.091
Antibiotic prophylaxis	6369 (68.5)	429 (77.3)	<0.001
Train-of-four monitoring	1658 (17.8)	127 (23.0)	0.002
Total fluid amount (ml)	1000.00 [800.00, 1600.00]	1100.00 [1000.00, 2000.00]	<0.001
Crystalloid (ml)	1000.00 [620.00, 1500.00]	1000.00 [750.50, 1800.00]	0.002
Colloid (ml)	500.00 [0.00, 500.00]	500.00 [500.00, 500.00]	0.004
Transfusion during surgery	306 (3.3)	24 (4.3)	0.231
NMBA	7807 (84.0)	465 (84.1)	1.000
NMBA reversal	3152 (34.5)	142 (25.9)	<0.001
Mode of ventilation			<0.001
Volume controlled	6470 (70.6)	344 (62.9)	
Pressure controlled	1469 (16.0)	102 (18.6)	
Pressure support ventilation	99 (1.1)	5 (0.9)	
Spontaneous	503 (5.5)	35 (6.4)	
Other	626 (6.8)	61 (11.2)	
Peak pressure (cmH <sub>2</sub> O)	17.50 [15.00, 21.00]	17.50 [15.00, 20.00]	0.750
Plateau pressure (cmH <sub>2</sub> O)	15.50 [13.00, 18.50]	16.00 [14.00, 19.00]	0.089
Tidal volume (ml)	500.00 [456.00, 560.00]	500.00 [450.00, 550.00]	0.028
Tidal volume ml kg <sup>-1</sup> ABW	6.76 [5.86, 7.69]	6.67 [5.76, 7.69]	0.287
Tidal volume ml kg <sup>-1</sup> PBW	8.13 [7.23, 9.13]	7.91 [7.15, 8.72]	<0.001
FiO <sub>2</sub> (%)	52.00 [46.00, 70.00]	51.25 [45.00, 70.00]	0.253
PEEP (cmH <sub>2</sub> O)	3.00 [0.00, 5.00]	4.00 [2.00, 5.00]	<0.001
Driving pressure	12.00 [10.00, 15.00]	12.00 [10.00, 15.00]	0.400
Respiratory rate	12.00 [12.00, 13.00]	12.00 [12.00, 13.62]	0.002
Minute ventilation (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	6000.00 [5000.00, 6763.69]	6000.00 [4980.00, 6819.75]	0.920
Recruitment maneuvers	914 (9.9)	51 (9.2)	0.670
SpO <sub>2</sub> (%)	99.00 [98.00, 100.00]	99.00 [98.00, 100.00]	0.789
EtCO <sub>2</sub> (kPa)	4.50 [4.13, 4.86]	4.53 [4.19, 4.79]	0.219

Data are presented as median [25th, 75th percentile] or event (%).

NMBA: neuromuscular blocking agents; PEEP: positive end expiratory pressure; ABW: actual body weight; PBW: predicted body weight calculated as: 50 + [0.91 x (cm height - 152.4)] for males and 45.5 + [0.91 - (cm height - 152.4)] for females; Driving pressure: calculated as plateau pressure - PEEP; SpO<sub>2</sub>: peripheral oxygen saturation; EtCO<sub>2</sub>: expiratory carbon dioxide

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**Table 3. Intraoperative adverse events (AEs), postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs) and clinical outcomes in the unmatched day and night-time groups**

	<b>Day-time (n=9,306)</b>	<b>Night-time (n=555)</b>	<b>P value</b>
<b>Total intraoperative AEs<sup>a</sup></b>	3165 (34.1)	242 (43.6)	<0.001
Intraoperative desaturation <sup>b</sup>	353 (3.8)	34 (6.1)	0.008
Intraoperative need for unplanned recruitment maneuvers <sup>c</sup>	315 (4)	17 (3.1)	0.765
Intraoperative need for ventilatory pressure reduction <sup>d</sup>	263 (2.8)	19 (3.4)	0.501
Intraoperative onset of expiratory flow limitation <sup>e</sup>	51 (0.6)	1 (0.2)	0.403
Intraoperative hypotension <sup>f</sup>	2432 (26.2)	185 (33.3)	<0.001
Intraoperative need for vasopressors <sup>g</sup>	2032 (21.9)	176 (31.8)	<0.001
Intraoperative new arrhythmia <sup>h</sup>	56 (0.6)	4 (0.7)	0.946
<b>Total PPCs<sup>i</sup></b>	926 (10.1)	77 (14.0)	0.004
Severe PPCs <sup>l</sup>	230 (2.5)	40 (7.3)	<0.001
Unplanned supplemental oxygen <sup>m</sup>	775 (8.5)	50 (9.1)	0.662
Respiratory failure <sup>n</sup>	134 (1.5)	22 (4.0)	<0.001
New use of MV during follow-up	89 (1.0)	18 (3.3)	<0.001
ARDS	6 (0.1)	3 (0.5)	0.004
Pneumonia	37 (0.4)	3 (0.5)	0.872
Barotrauma	12 (0.1)	1 (0.2)	1.000
Hospital length of stay (day) (median [25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile])	1.00 [0.00, 4.00]	2.00 [0.00, 5.00]	<0.001
Death <sup>o</sup>	48 (0.6)	8 (1.5)	0.016

<sup>a</sup>Total intraoperative AEs: Number (and proportion) of patients who developed at least one intraoperative AE. One patient could present with multiple intraoperative AEs but was scored only one (YES or NO principle). <sup>b</sup>Intraoperative desaturation: SpO<sub>2</sub> < 92% for more than 2 minutes; <sup>c</sup>Intraoperative need for unplanned recruitment maneuvers: ventilator strategies aimed to lower peak and plateau pressure; <sup>d</sup>Intraoperative need for ventilator pressure reduction: ventilator strategies aimed to lower peak and plateau pressure; <sup>e</sup>Intraoperative onset of expiratory flow limitation: expiratory flow higher than zero at end-expiration as suggested by visual analysis of the flow curve; <sup>f</sup>Intraoperative hypotension: Systolic arterial blood pressure <90 mmHg; <sup>g</sup>Intraoperative need for vasopressors: any vasoactive drug given to correct hypotension as defined above; <sup>h</sup>Intraoperative new arrhythmia: atrial fibrillation, sustained ventricular tachycardia, supraventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation.

PPCs on day 1 to 5 were score YES as soon as the event occurred on either ward or intensive care unit. <sup>i</sup>Total PPCs: Number (and proportion) of patients who developed at least one PPC. One patient could present with multiple PPCs but was scored only one (YES or NO principle). <sup>l</sup>Severe PPCs were defined by excluding the variable “unplanned supplemental oxygen”; <sup>m</sup>Unplanned supplemental oxygen: supplemental oxygen administered due to PaO<sub>2</sub> < 8 kPa or SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90% in room air, excluding oxygen supplementation given as standard care; death at the end of follow-up; <sup>n</sup>Respiratory failure: PaO<sub>2</sub> < 60 mmHg or SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90% despite oxygen therapy, or need for non-invasive mechanical ventilation. <sup>o</sup>Death: on day 28.

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**Table 4. Logistic regression model for the occurrence of intraoperative adverse events (AEs)**

	<b>OR (95%CI)</b>	<b>P value</b>
Age	1.02 (1.02-1.03)	<0.001
BMI	1.01 (1-1.02)	0.036
ASA class	1.18 (1.05-1.32)	0.005
ARISCAT score	0.99 (0.99-1.01)	0.726
Partially dependent (FS)	1.33 (1.02-1.74)	0.037
Totally dependent (FS)	2 (1.07-3.78)	0.030
Preoperative SpO <sub>2</sub>	0.93 (0.9-0.96)	<0.001
Preoperative (Hb ≤ 10 g/dl)	1 (0.65-1.51)	0.987
Smoker	0.98 (0.84-1.15)	0.839
COPD	0.86 (0.66-1.11)	0.246
Cancer	1.01 (0.74-1.37)	0.950
Chronic kidney disease	1.3 (0.92-1.83)	0.129
Heart failure	0.89 (0.68-1.15)	0.370
Sleep apnea	1.74 (1.12-2.7)	0.014
Respiratory infection < 30 days	1.61 (1.16-2.23)	0.005
RBC transfusion < 30 days	0.77 (0.31-1.85)	0.557
Preoperative Hb	1.02 (0.98-1.06)	0.435
Leukocyte count	1 (1-1)	0.023
Preoperative creatinine	1.03 (1-1.09)	0.136
Urgent surgery	0.81 (0.62-1.04)	0.104
Emergency surgery	1.52 (0.88-2.64)	0.133
Duration of anesthesia	1 (1-1)	<0.001
Epidural	1.96 (1.47-2.64)	<0.001
Antibiotic prophylaxis	1.25 (1.07-1.47)	0.004
Total fluid amount	1 (1-1)	0.022
Transfusion of RBC during surgery	1.44 (1-2.09)	0.053
Residual curarization	1.34 (0.68-2.69)	0.402
Surgery during the weekends	0.81 (0.49-1.32)	0.413
Laparoscopic surgery	0.74 (0.61-0.89)	0.002
<b>Night-time surgery</b>	<b>1.44 (1.09-1.9)</b>	<b>0.010</b>

BMI: body mass index; ASA: American Society of Anesthesiology; Hb: haemoglobin; FS: functional status; SpO<sub>2</sub>: peripheral oxygen saturation; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; RBC: red blood cells

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**Table 5. Logistic regression model for the occurrence of postoperative pulmonary complications (PPCs).**

	<b>OR (95%CI)</b>	<b>P value</b>
Age	1.01 (1-1.02)	0.002
BMI	1.02 (1-1.03)	0.081
ASA	1.33 (1.12-1.58)	0.001
ARISCAT score	1.01 (1-1.02)	0.070
Partially dependent (FS)	1.03 (0.72-1.43)	0.886
Totally dependent (FS)	0.78 (0.3-1.78)	0.576
Preoperative SpO <sub>2</sub>	0.94 (0.9-0.99)	0.010
Preoperative (Hb ≤ 10 g/dl)	1.19 (0.7-1.99)	0.508
Smoker	0.84 (0.64-1.08)	0.179
COPD	1.29 (0.91-1.81)	0.143
Cancer	1.64 (1.13-2.34)	0.008
Chronic kidney disease	1.37 (0.91-2.03)	0.131
Heart failure	0.97 (0.67-1.38)	0.866
Sleep apnea	2.05 (1.17-3.49)	0.010
Respiratory infection < 30 days	1.46 (0.95-2.22)	0.080
RBC transfusion < 30 days	0.79 (0.25-2.17)	0.665
Preoperative Hb	0.98 (0.92-1.04)	0.514
Leukocyte count	1 (1-1)	0.012
Preoperative creatinine	1.01 (0.97-1.04)	0.670
Urgent surgery	1.4 (0.99-1.96)	0.053
Emergency surgery	2.63 (1.38-4.87)	0.003
Duration of anaesthesia	1 (1-1)	<0.001
Epidural	1.18 (0.82-1.67)	0.358
Antibiotic prophylaxis	1.07 (0.83-1.39)	0.605
Total fluid amount	1 (1-1)	0.752
Transfusion of RBC during surgery	1.49 (0.99-2.22)	0.051
Intraoperative adverse events	1.46 (1.19-1.8)	<0.001
Residual curarization	3.85 (1.9-7.68)	<0.001
Surgery during weekend	1.62 (0.87-2.9)	0.113
Laparoscopic surgery	0.95 (0.71-1.26)	0.745
<b>Night-time surgery</b>	<b>1.32 (0.89-1.9)</b>	<b>0.152</b>

BMI: body mass index; ASA: American Society of Anesthesiology; Hb: haemoglobin; FS: functional status; SpO<sub>2</sub>: peripheral oxygen saturation; COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; RBC: red blood cells