

ESRA ITALIAN CHAPTER

309 NATIONAL MEETING

Presidents:

Giuseppe Servillo, Fabrizio Fattorini

13-15 NOV 2025 REGIONAL NAPOLI ANAESTHESIA: HOTEL RAMADA LET'S OPEN THE BORDERS





Frozen no thanks tips and tricks to increase patient confort

Target number two: Maintenance

Fernando Chiumiento



Hypothermia: A Persistent Perioperative Challenge

The problem

Clinical impact

Inadvertent perioperative hypothermia is one of the most common and often overlooked complications in the operating room.

Its incidence ranges from 10% to 80% in patients undergoing various types of anesthesia and surgical procedures.

This is not simply a reduction in body temperature, but an adverse event with significant consequences for postoperative outcome.

Body temperature is one of the fundamental vital parameters, essential for maintaining normal cellular and molecular activity.

During the perioperative period, thermal homeostasis can be severely compromised by anesthetic and surgical conditions.

Even mild hypothermia increases the risk of complications such as bleeding, infection, cardiovascular changes, and prolonged postoperative recovery.

Definition and Classification of Hypothermia



Perioperative environment

Core temperature <36°C

Critical threshold for heating interventions



Mild Hypothermia

<35°C, ≥32°C

Most common form in the operating room



Moderate Hypothermia

<32°C, ≥28°C

Requires immediate intervention



severe hypothermia

<28°C

Critical medical emergency

In the perioperative setting, a core body temperature below 36°C is considered hypothermia requiring rewarming interventions, as even temperatures between 35-36°C can lead to significant adverse effects.



Pathophysiology of Perioperative Thermoregulation

Temperature Regulation Mechanisms

Body temperature is controlled through three integrated levels: peripheral thermoreceptors (TRP family proteins), the hypothalamic regulatory center in the preoptic area, and peripheral effectors that generate adaptive responses.



Thermoreceptors

They detect thermal variations



Hypothalamic regulatory center

Processes signals and coordinates response



Effectors

Vasoconstriction, chills, thermogenesis



The Three Phases of Intraoperative Hypothermia

Phase 1: Redistribution

0-60 minutes

Rapid drop of 0.5-1.5°C.

Heat from the central compartment is redistributed to the periphery due to vasodilation induced by anesthesia.

Total heat loss is minimal, but core temperature drops rapidly.

Phase 2: Linear After 1-3 hours

Gradual reduction of 0.5-1°C/hour.

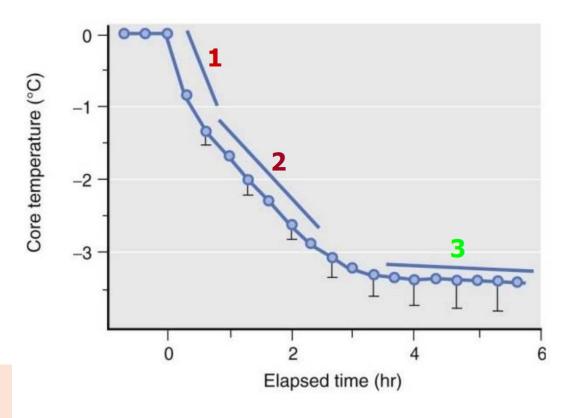
Body temperature decreases slowly due to the imbalance between reduced thermogenesis (metabolism \$\pm\$15-40%) and increased heat loss through radiation, conduction, convection, and evaporation.

Fase 3: Plateau After 2-4 hours

Stabilization at ~34.5°C.

A new equilibrium is reached when residual vasoconstriction and arteriovenous shunt blockage conserve heat in the central compartment.

May not occur with neuraxial anesthesia.



Risk Factors for Perioperative Hypothermia

Advanced age

Identified as a risk factor in 12 studies. Reduced thermoregulatory capacity and decreased basal metabolism.

Fluid Administration

Seven studies have shown that large volumes of unheated liquids significantly increase risk.

Preoperative Temperature

Reported in 8 studies.

Preexisting hypothermia predicts severe intraoperative hypothermia.

Body mass index

Reported in 9 studies. Both low and high BMI increase the risk of perioperative hypothermia.

Duration of the Intervention

Identified in 10 studies.
Prolonged exposure increases cumulative heat loss.

Other Relevant Factors

Low ambient temperature in the operating room

Laminar flow that increases convection

Open vs. endoscopic surgery

Cardiovascular and metabolic comorbidities

Combination of general anesthesia + neuraxial anesthesia

Lack of active heating

Among pediatric patients, neonates and infants are at particularly high risk, with reported incidence rates of up to 81%.



Cardiovascular complications



Vasoconstriction increases cardiac load and the risk of myocardial ischemia.

Increased incidence of arrhythmias and major cardiovascular events in the first 24 hours after surgery.

Postoperative infections



Inhibition of HLA-DR expression in monocytes.
Impaired leukocyte migration and phagocytosis.
Reduced perfusion at the surgical site, which delays healing.

Altered Drug Metabolism



Reduced enzyme activity slows the clearance of anesthetics, prolonging recovery from anesthesia and extubation time.

Coagulopathy and Bleeding



Platelet dysfunction and reduced activity of coagulation factors.

A 1°C reduction increases bleeding by 20%, resulting in increased need for transfusions.

Shivers and Discomfort



Unpleasant involuntary muscle activity significantly reduces patient satisfaction.

It also increases oxygen consumption and the work of breathing.

Prolonged Recovery



Longer hospital stay, electrolyte alterations, delayed recovery of gastrointestinal functions and possible correlation with postoperative delirium.

Cobb B. et al., Anesth Analg. 2016; Qadan M, et al., Ann Surg. 2009; Polderman KH. Crit Care Med. 2009; Evans SS. et al., Nat Rev Immunol. 2015; Cau MF. et al., Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2022; Caldwell JE. et al., Anesthesiology. 2000; Zhang Z. et al., Anesth Analg. 2019; Polderman KH. et al., Neurosurg. 2001; Polderman KH, Herold I., Crit Care Med. 2009;

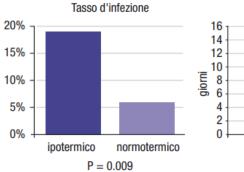
Infezione del sito chirurgico e durata della degenza ospedaliera

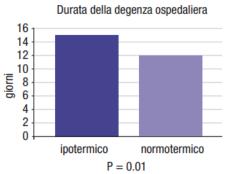
Kurz A, Sessler DI, Lenhardt R. Perioperative normothermia to reduce the incidence of surgical wound infection and shorten hospitalization. Study of Wound Infection and Temperature Group. N. Engl. J.

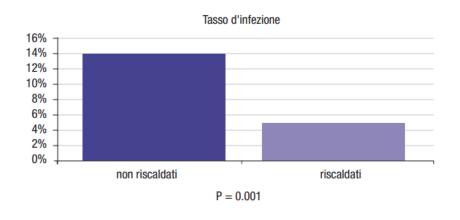
Questo studio, condotto su 200 pazienti sottoposti a intervento chirurgico elettivo colonrettale assegnati in modo casuale a due gruppi di gestione della temperatura, uno di trattamento intraoperatorio standard senza riscaldamento attivo e l'altro con riscaldamento attivo, ha dimostrato che il mantenimento della normotermia diminuisce l'incidenza delle infezioni dei siti chirurgici, riducendo anche i tempi di degenza ospedaliera.

Melling AC, Ali B, Scott EM, Leaper DJ. Effects of 2008;108(1):71-77. Preoperative warming on the incidence of wound infection after clean surgery: a randomised controlled trial. Lancet. 2001;358(9285):876-880.

Questo studio, condotto su 421 pazienti sottoposti a interventi chirurgici alla mammella, vene varicose o ernia, assegnati in modo casuale a un gruppo standard (paziente non riscaldato) o a un gruppo che ha ricevuto almeno 30 minuti di riscaldamento locale o sistemico prima dell'intervento chirurgico, dimostra come il riscaldamento dei pazienti prima dell'intervento contribuisca alla prevenzione delle infezioni del sito chirurgico.









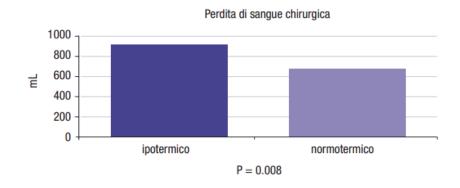
Perdita di sangue e necessità di trasfusione

Schmied H, Kurz A, Sessler DI, Kozek S, Reiter A. Mild hypothermia increases blood loss and transfusion requirements during total hip arthroplasty. Lancet. Feb 3 1996;347(8997):289-292

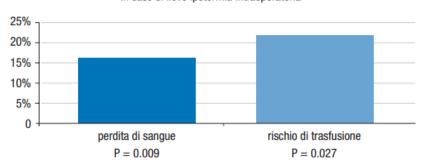
Questo studio su 60 pazienti sottoposti ad artroprotesi dell'anca, assegnati in modo casuale a gruppi normotermici o lievemente ipotermici, dimostra che la diminuzione della temperatura centrale nella misura normalmente sperimentata durante gli interventi chirurgici ha favorito una perdita di sangue sensibilmente maggiore nel gruppo ipotermico rispetto al gruppo normotermico.

Rajagopalan S, Mascha E, Na J, Sessler DI. The effects of mild perioperative hypothermia on blood loss and transfusion requirement. Anesthesiology. Jan Melling AC, Ali B, Scott EM, Leaper DJ. Effects of 2008;108(1):71-77

Questa metanalisi di studi clinici casuali, mirati a confrontare la perdita di sangue e/o la necessità di trasfusione di pazienti normotermici rispetto a pazienti chirurgici con lieve ipotermia intraoperatoria, indica che il mantenimento della normotermia è associato a una minore perdita di sangue e a un minor rischio di fabbisogno trasfusionale.



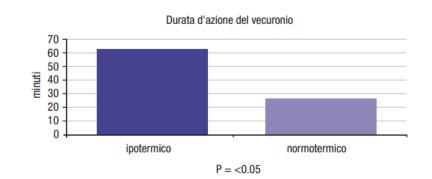




Effetto prolungato e alterato dei farmaci

Heier T, Caldwell JE, Sessler DI, Miller RD. Mild Intraoperative hypothermia increases duration of action and spontaneous recovery of vecuronium blockade during nitrous oxide-isoflurane anesthesia inhumans. Anesthesiology. 1991;74(5):815-819

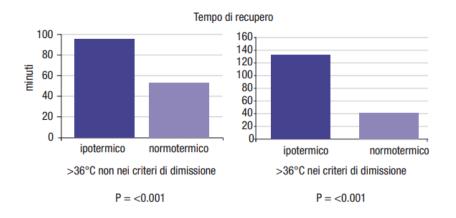
Questo studio, condotto su 20 pazienti sottoposti a chirurgia elettiva, assegnati a gruppi normotermici o lievemente ipotermici (>34.5°C), indica che l'ipotermia lieve aumenta la durata d'azione del vecuronio e di conseguenza il tempo necessario al paziente per il recupero dal blocco neuromuscolare indotto dal vecuronio.



Tempo di recupero prolungato

Lenhardt R, Marker E, Goll V, et al. Mild intraoperative hypothermia prolongs postanesthetic recovery. Anesthesiology. 1997;87(6):1318-1323

Da questo studio, condotto su 150 pazienti sottoposti a chirurgia addominale elettiva assegnati al trattamento standard (senza riscaldamento attivo) o a gruppi di riscaldamento attivo, è risultato che l'ipotermia ha prolungato i tempi di recupero postoperatorio e il tempo di dimissione dall'area di recupero post-anestesiologico, specie laddove i criteri di dimissione prevedevano una temperatura centrale superiore ai 36°C.





- Treatment of complications
- Extension of hospital stay







Risultato	Risparmio costi per paziente (valutazione in fascia alta)	Risparmio costi per paziente (valutazione in fascia bassa)
Globuli rossi	\$ 229,43	\$ 117,60
Plasma	\$ 76,90	\$71,50
Piastrine	\$ 38,07	\$ 38,07
Durata del ricovero	\$ 4602,00	\$ 1534,00
Durata terapia intensiva	\$ 314,25	\$ 104,75
Infarto del miocardio	\$90,23	\$ 67,67
Trasfusione	\$0,20	\$ 0,07
Ventilazione	\$ 25,68	\$ 16,05
Risparmio costi totale	\$ 7073,56	\$ 2495,11

Conseguenza	Costo unitario
Infezione del sito operatorio (chirurgia minore)	£ 950
Infezione del sito operatorio (chirurgia maggiore)	£ 3858
Trasfusione	£ 244
Evento cardiaco patologico (ischemia)	£ 2024
Evento cardiaco patologico (arresto cardiaco)	£ 2021
Evento cardiaco patologico (infarto del miocardio)	£ 1674
Ventilazione meccanica	£ 1144
Ulcera da pressione	£ 1064
Permanenza in terapia intensiva post-chirurgica per ogni ora	£ 44
Durata della degenza in ospedale - per ogni giorno	£ 275

Kurz et al., 1996; Lenhardt et al., 1997; Plowman et al., 1999; Mahoney et al., 1999; Young et al., 2006; N.I.C.E.-Guidelines, 2008;.

Good Clinical Practices and Guidelines





American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses 10 Melrose Avenue • Suite 110 • Cherry Hill • New Jersey 08003-3696 Tel: 877-737-9696 • Fax: 856-616-9601 • E-mail: aspan@aspan.org • Web: www.aspan.org

Hypothermia: prevention and management in adults having surgery

Clinical guideline Published: 23 April 2008 nice.org.uk/guidance/cg6

CLINICAL GUIDELINE FOR THE PREVENTION OF UNPLANNED PERIOPERATIVE HYPOTHERMIA







Manuale per la Sicurezza in sala operatoria: Raccomandazioni e Checklist

ASSISTENZA E DEI PRINCIPI ETICI DI SISTEMA UFFICIO III



Gruppo di Studio SIAARTI per la Sicurezza in Anestesia e Terapia Intensiva

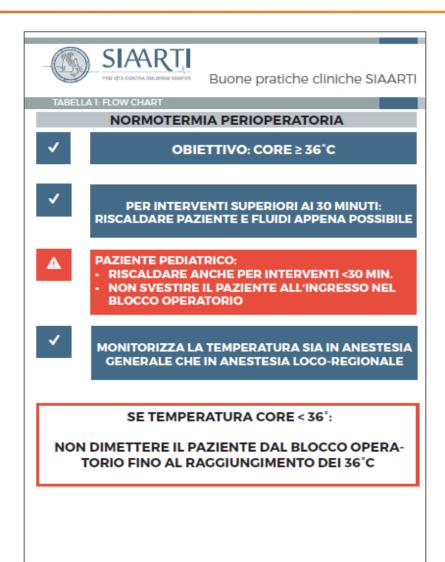
RACCOMANDAZIONI PER L'AREA DI RECUPERO E L'ASSISTENZA POST-ANESTESIOLOGICA

Gruppo di Lavoro per l'assistenza post-anestesiologica

INERVA ANESTESIOL 2001;67:15

Raccomandazioni sulla Normotermia Perioperatoria

GRUPPO DI LAVORO SULL'IPOTERMIA PERIOPERATORIA
S. Montanini, G. Martinelli, G. Torri, M. Berti, R. Pattono, E. Borzomati,
R. Projetti, S. Baroncini, L. Bertini



NECESSARIO

NORMOTERMIA PERIOPERATORIA

OBIETTIVO: CORE ≥ 36°C

Per interventi superiori a 30 Min**



- MANTENERE / RIPRISTINARE LA NORMOTERMIA PRIMA DEL TRASFERIMENTO DEL PAZIENTE NEL BLOCCO OPERATORIO
- 2. INCORAGGIARE IL PAZIENTE A CAMMINARE PER RAGGIUNGERE IL BO (OUANDO OPPORTUNO E SE POSSIBILE)
- 3. RISCALDARE PAZIENTE E FLUIDI, APPENA POSSIBILE, DOPO L'INGRESSO NEL **BLOCCO OPERATORIO** *
- 4. CONSIDERARE IL PRERISCALDAMENTO (MIN. 10-30 MINUTI) PER EVITARE IPOTER-MIA DA RIDISTRIBUZIONE
- 5. MONITORARE LA TC DURANTE L'INTERVENTO (OGNI 30 MINUTI) E PER TUTTA LA DURATA DELL'ANESTESIA E REGISTRARE SEMPRE IL DATO IN CARTELLA
- 6. REGISTRARE SEMPRE LA TC IN RR/PACU (OGNI 15 MIN) E ALLA DIMISSIONE DAL BLOCCO OPERATORIO, FORNENDO INDICAZIONI/ALERT AL PERSONALE IN CON-SEGNA.

*CONSIDERARE SEMPRE:

- TEMPERATURA AMBIENTALE BLOCCO OPERATORIO (NEI LIMITI PREVISTI)
- RISCALDAMENTO ATTIVO DEL PAZIENTE
- RISCALDAMENTO DEI FLUIDI DA INFONDERE E DI QUELLI DI IRRIGAZIONE



- **PAZIENTE PEDIATRICO:
- 1. RISCALDARE SEMPRE ANCHE PER INTERVENTI <30 MIN.
- 2. NON SVESTIRE IL PAZIENTE ALL'INGRESSO NEL BO
- 3. RISCALDARE IMMEDIATAMENTE, CON MEZZI DEDICATI

T° CORE IN ANESTESIA GENERALE

- Esofagea
- Sensore servo controllato riscaldato
- Timpanica a contatto
- Vescicale*
- PAC/Catetere art. PiCCO o EV1000 o analoghi*
- 'se indicati

WARNING

T° CORE IN ANESTESIA LOCO-REGIONALE

- Timpanica a contatto
- Sensore servo controllato riscaldato
- Vescicale*
- 'se indicati

SE T°C < 36:

VALUTARE IMPLEMENTAZIONE DEI MEZZI DI RISCALDAMENTO (AD ARIA CALDA FORZATA SE POSSIBILE, MATERASSINI E COPERTE TERMICHE IN BASE A VALUTAZIONE RISCHI/BENEFICI) NON DIMETTERE IL PAZIENTE DAL BLOCCO OPERATORIO FINO AL RAGGIUNGIMENTO DEI 36°C (ESCLUSI I PAZIENTI DA TRASFERIRE IN TERAPIA INTENSIVA)

NECESSARIO AUSPICABILE WARNING



Prevention and Treatment Strategies

Temperature monitoring

When to monitor:

Before anesthesia (baseline)

Constant monitoring in the intraoperative phase

End of surgery and arrival at PACU

Every 15 minutes in the recovery room

Recommended sites:

Distal esophagus, nasopharynx, tympanic membrane, noninvasive forehead temperature.

Fluid Warming Indications:

Administration >500-1000 mL/hour.

Target temperature: 37°C.

Efficacy: Temperature increase of ~0.5°C, reduction of

chills.

Includes intravenous fluids, irrigation solutions, and warmed inspiratory gases.

Active Surface Warming

Most effective device:

Forced-air warmer.

Considerations: Begin before induction.

Even 10–20 minutes of prewarming significantly reduces hypothermia: from 69% without prewarming to 13% with 10-minute prewarming, 7% with 20-minute prewarming, and 6% with 30-minute prewarming.

Horn EP. Et al., Anaesthesia. 2012;

Environmental and Passive Measures:

adequate operating room temperatures, insulating covers, low-flow ventilation circuits, interprofessional collaboration



Conclusions and Clinical Recommendations:

Perioperative hypothermia is common and preventable.

The incidence remains high (12-81%) despite the availability of effective interventions.

The consequences are clinically significant:

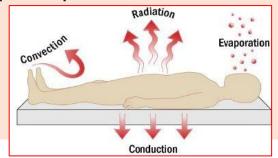
It increases cardiovascular, infectious and coagulation complications and prolongs recovery.

Active rewarming is effective and essential.

It dramatically reduces the incidence of hypothermia and improves postoperative outcomes.

Prevention begins before induction.

Prewarming for even 10-20 minutes significantly reduces the risk.





Practical recommendations:

- 1. Monitor temperature in all patients undergoing general anesthesia for >30 minutes or major procedures, preferably with a noninvasive system.
- 2. Maintain a target temperature ≥36°C.
- 3. Use active warming devices, preferably forced air.
- 4. Begin warming before induction.
- 5. Warm fluids if administered >500 ml.
- 6. A multidisciplinary approach involving anesthesiologists, surgeons, and nurses.





