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Actigraphy for Measurement of Sleep and Sleep-Wake Rhythms in Relation to Surgery

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Study Objectives: Patients undergoing surgery have severe sleep and sleep-wake rhythm disturbances resulting in increased morbidity. Actigraphy is a tool that can be used to quantify these disturbances. The aim of this manuscript was to present the literature where actigraphy has been used to measure sleep and sleep-wake rhythms in relation to surgery. Methods: A systematic review was performed in 3 databases (Medline, Embase, and Psycinfo), including all literature until July 2012. Results: Thirty-two studies were included in the review. Actigraphy could demonstrate that total sleep time and sleep efficiency was reduced after surgery and number of awakenings was increased in patients undergoing major surgery. Disturbances were less severe in patients undergoing minor surgery.

Disturbed sleep and sleep-wake rhythms represent a major problem for patients after surgery¹ and may result in prolonged postoperative convalescence,² cardiovascular morbidity,³⁻⁵ cognitive dysfunction,^{6,7} and impaired immune function.⁸⁻¹¹ Furthermore, improved morbidity and mortality has been correlated with a more marked rest-activity rhythm.^{12,13}

The golden standard for measuring sleep is polysomnography (PSG). Although ambulatory devices have been developed the method includes multiple electrodes, resulting in reduced mobility and discomfort.¹⁴ The analysis of a PSG recording is also resource demanding,15 and there exists no automatic analvsis scoring system with sufficient reliability.¹⁶ An actigraph, which is a small wrist-worn device, can be used to measure sleep, circadian rhythm, activity rhythm, and activity in general.¹⁷ The advantages of actigraphy are high level of mobility,¹⁴ the possibility of measuring over longer periods of time (days to months),18 low cost,18 and minimal data editing required for data analysis.^{15,19} Actigraphy has been validated against polysomnography with high levels of sensitivity and specificity in various nonsurgical patient populations.^{17,18,20,21} In this systematic review, we present an overview of studies where actigraphy has been used to describe sleep and sleep-wake rhythms in relation to surgery, including patients undergoing cardiac surgery, general surgery, and ambulatory surgery. The strengths and weaknesses of actigraphy will be reviewed and discussed.

METHOD

The systematic search was performed in 3 databases: MED-LINE, Embase, and PsycINFO. All 3 systematic searches were Actigraphy could be used to differentiate between delirious and non-delirious patients after major surgery. Actigraphy measurements could determine a differential effect of surgery based on the patient's age. The effect of pharmacological interventions (chronobiotics and hypnotics) in surgical patients could also be demonstrated by actigraphy.

Conclusion: Actigraphy can be used to measure sleep and sleep-wake rhythms in patients undergoing surgery.

Keywords: Actigraphy, surgery, sleep disturbances, sleepwake rhythm, and activity

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performed in July 2012. The following terms where used for inclusion of studies: "surgery OR outpatient surgery OR fast track surgery OR general surgery" AND "actigraphy [Meshterm] OR actigraphy* OR actigraphy OR actigraphic recording OR wrist actigraphy OR actometer OR actimeter OR actical OR actiwatch OR sleep-watch". There were no limitations on study design. The impact of the surgical intervention on sleep and sleep-wake rhythms was the primary outcome of interest. Neurosurgical procedures were excluded due to the possibility of direct central nervous system influence on regulation of sleep and sleep-wake rhythms. Ear, nose, and throat surgery were excluded because ear, nose, and throat diseases have chronic sleep disturbances as one of their manifestations. The endocrine metabolic stress response is also minimal in ear, nose, and throat surgery. Only studies in which actigraphy was used to assess sleep or sleep-wake rhythm were included. The perioperative period was defined as one week preoperatively to six months postoperatively. This was done because the effect of the surgical trauma on sleep, circadian rhythm, and activity was the area of interest. Non-English language studies were excluded, and no conference abstracts or dissertations were included in the review. Information was extracted from each study on study design, surgery type, and number of patients included.

RESULTS

Based on the search strategy, a total of 143 studies were identified from the 3 search engines (**Figure 1**). After duplicates were removed, 95 studies were left and these were evaluated on title and abstract. Thirty-six studies were selected for full article

Figure 1—Flowchart for studies included in systematic review



examination, and 59 were excluded due to the exclusion criteria. The primary reason for exclusion were no surgical procedure or surgical procedures within the exclusion criteria (31/59), animal studies (4/59), reviews (5/59), wrong time placement of actigraph (not in relation to the perioperative phase; 8/59), non-English article (1/59), no actigraphy measurement (3/59), and conference abstracts (7/59). After full article reading, another 5 studies were excluded, 4 due to procedures within the exclusion criteria and one because the measurement was not in the perioperative period. Therefore, 31 articles were included in the final review. Sleep and sleep-wake rhythm were the focus in 24 and 15 studies, respectively. Eight of the studies measured both sleep and sleep-wake rhythm.^{2,22-27}

Sleep

Of the 24 studies in which actigraphy was used to assess sleep, 9 studies were in patients undergoing cardiac surgery,^{25-27,31-36} 6 general surgery,^{2,22-24,37,38} 5 outpatient surgery,³⁹⁻⁴³ 2 breast surgery,^{44,45} and the last 2 studies involved gynecological/obstetric surgery.^{46,47} Three studies were randomized clinical trials.^{24,42,43} The 24 studies were conducted between 1996 and 2011. The smallest study included 11 patients, and the largest included 169 patients. In 12 studies there was a control group^{22,24-27,32,40-43,46,47}; 5 of these studies included healthy controls.^{22,26,27,40,41}

In 23 of the 24 studies, total sleep time/nighttime sleep was assessed by actigraphy (**Table 1**). In 16 studies, sleep efficiency was reported. In 16 studies, the frequency, number, and duration of awakenings was reported; in 8 studies, wake after sleep onset was reported.

Cardiac Surgery

In the 9 studies including patients undergoing cardiac surgery,^{25-27,31-36} the population size was 13-129. Most of the procedures were coronary artery bypass surgery^{25-27,32-36}; one was placement of a left ventricular assist device through an open procedure.³¹ Six of the 9 studies included both preoperative and postoperative values,^{25-27,31,34,35} with only postoperative values in the remaining 3 studies.^{32,33,36}

When using actigraphy to assess sleep after cardiac surgery, it was shown that total sleep time was reduced in the first week after surgery. The sleep time tended to normalize after one month but could be affected as long as 6 months postoperatively. Sleep efficiency was measured in 7 of the 9 studies^{25-27,31,32,35,36} and showed the same tendency as total sleep time, with a reduction in the first postoperative week and normalization one month postoperatively. An age effect was shown, where people < 60 years returned to preoperative values after one month, but people > 60 years needed 2 months to return to preoperative values.²⁷ Number of awakenings, measured in 5 studies,³²⁻³⁶ did not change after cardiac surgery. The duration of awakenings, however, increased in the postoperative week, and returned to normal after one month. Wake after sleep onset was measured in 5 of the 9 studies^{25-27,31,32} and increased in the first postoperative week. In a case-control study where 48 patients undergoing on-pump cardiac surgery were compared with 81 patients undergoing off-pump surgery, it was shown that patients undergoing off-pump cardiac surgery had fewer awakenings and a lower percentage of wake after sleep onset.³² In 3 studies,²⁵⁻²⁷ sleep latency was shown to be

Table 1—Sleep studies										
Author, ref No.	Year	Design	Surgery-type	n	Actigraphy parameters	Actigraph brand and epoch length	Time of measurement	Control group	Results	
Redeker et al. ³⁶	1996	Longitudinal time series design	CABG (cardiac surgery)	22	TST, NOA, MSI, NPER and MWT.	MiniMotion logger (AMI). NS.	Post 6 months	No (women)	T1: POD2-5, TST ↓, NOA ↑, MWT ↑ and MSI →. T2: No sign trends. T1-T4: ↑ NTS, NPER ↑. NOA↓, MSI ↑. MWT →.	
Bisgaard et al.22	1999	Descriptive study	Abdominal surgery	24 (12/12)	MA and SA.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Post day 2-4	Yes (SP vs. HC)	M A higher in HC than SP SA lower than MA in both groups.	
Kawa-hara et al.43	2002	RCT	Ortho, plastic surgery	40 (20/20)	TST.	Mini Motionlogger Actigraph (AMI). 30-sec epoch.	Pre 1 night	Yes (Brotizolam vs. Zopiclone)	Brotizolam: TST \uparrow and \uparrow sleep in the morning.	
Kain et al.40	2002	Cohort study	Outpatient surgery (children)	169 (92/72)	TST, SE, TuST, NOA.	MiniMotion logger Basic (AMI). NS.	Pre3 days Post 5 days	Yes (SP vs. HC) –	14,4 % had SE ↓. Patients with SE ↓ had more pain on POD 1-2.	
Bisgaard et al.23	2002	Descriptive study	Lap cholecystectomy	24	MA and TST.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min Epoch.	Pre 1 week Post 1 week	No	MA↓ TST↑	
Kain ZN et al.41	2003	Cohort study	Outpatient elective surgery	127 (95/35)	SE, TST, TWT, NOA and NOA.	MiniMotion logger Basic (AMI). NS.	Pre 2 days Post 2 days	Yes (SP vs. HC)	23 % had SE \downarrow . SP > HC in NOA post op. NOA \rightarrow . SP > HC in TWT post op. TST \rightarrow .	
Bisgaard et al.24	2004	RCT	Lap cholecystectomy	86 (43/43)	MA, NST and NOA.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Pre 5 days Post 5 days	Yes (CHO or placebo)	No group differences pre or post op. MA \downarrow NST and NOA \rightarrow .	
Redeker et al. ³⁴	2004	Descriptive study	Cardiac surgery	72	NST, TIB, SE, NT, FOA and DOA.	MiniMotion logger (AMI). NS.	Pre 1 week Post 2 months T1: pre op T2: 1 post week, T3: 4 post week, T4 8 post week.	No	Mean nocturnal sleep < 6 h SE T3—>T4: ↑. No analysis of development over time. SE explains 16% of variation in physical function at T3.	
Redeker et al. ³⁵	2004	Longitudinal descriptive study	Cardiac surgery	72	DTS, SE, NST, NOA and DOA.	MiniMotion logger (AMI). NS.	Same as ref 34.	No	NST: ↓T1-T2, ↑T2:T3,→T3:T4 SE: ↓T1-T2, ↑T2:T3,→T3:T4 NOA: Not significant DOA: ↑T1-T2, ↓T2:T3,→T3:T4 DST: ↑T1-T2, ↓T2:T3, ↑T3:T4	
Kain et al.42	2005	RCT	Outpatient surgery (children)	102 (50/52)	TST, SE, True sleep time, NOA.	MiniMotion logger Basic (AMI). NS.	Post 7 days	Yes (halothane vs. sevoflurane)	TST \rightarrow , SE \rightarrow , true sleep time \rightarrow , NOA \rightarrow	
Hedges et al.33	2005	Descriptive study	CAB (cardiac surgery)	66	NST, SE, NOA, DOA, DN.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1 min epoch.	Post 2-3 days	No	NST and SE ↓ POD 2-3. Sleep was longer and more efficient at POD 2.	
Cadwell et al.39	2006	Cohort study	Outpatient surgery	52	SE.	Basic Motion Logger Actigraph (AMI). NS.	Pre 5 days Post 1-5 days	No	22% of children, SE ↓.	
Yilmaz et al.26	2007	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	85 (45/40)	SL, TST, WASO, TAS, SFI and SE.	Actiwatch AW64, mini-mitter, Bend, OR. 30-sec. epoch	Pre 3 days Post 5-8 days Controls: 7 days.	Yes (CABG vs. healthy controls)	SL $\uparrow,$ TST $\downarrow,$ TAS $\downarrow,$ WASO $\uparrow,$ FI $\uparrow,$ SE \downarrow Compared with healthy controls.	
Yilmaz et al.27	2007	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	85 (38/40)	TST, NT/NTD, SE, SL, WASO, TAS, and FI.	Actiwatch AW64, mini- mitter, Bend, OR. 30-sec epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 2 months Controls: 7 days.	Yes (CABG vs. healthy controls)	1^{st} and 2^{sd} postop month values normalized to preop values. Age effect: Younger (< 60 years) normalized first postop month and older (> 60 years) 2^{sd} month.	
Lee et al.47	2007	Descriptive study	Caesarean delivery vs. vaginal delivery	21 (6/15)	TST, WASO, and DS.	Mini-Motionlogger Actigraph (AMI). NS.	Post 2 days	Yes (CD vs. VD)	CD: TST ↓ and WASO ↑	
Gögenur et al.37	2007	Descriptive study	Laparoscopic surgery	11	TST, DOA and NOA.	Octagonal, Basic Motionlogger (AMI). 30-sec epoch	Pre 1 day Post 1 day	No	TST and NOA \rightarrow DOA \uparrow	
Gögernur et al. ³⁸	2007	Descriptive study	Abdominal surgery	36	TST, SE, NOA and WASO.	Octagonal, Basic Motionlogger (AMI). 30-sec epoch.	Pre 5 days Post 5 days	No	SE $\downarrow,$ NOA and WASO $\uparrow.$ TST \rightarrow	
Hedges et al.32	2008	Descriptive study	Cardiac surgery	129 (48/81)	NST, FOA, DOA and WASO (%).	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Postop day 2	Yes (on- vs. off-pump)	Off-pump: fewer awakenings and lower % WASO.	
Gögenur et al. ²	2009	Descriptive study	LC and MAS	76 and 44	Sleep duration, IS, IV, L5 and M10.	Octagonal, Basic Motionlogger (AMI). 30-sec epoch	Pre 4 days Post 4 days	2 groups LC and MAS	LC: Night sleep →, Day sleep ↓ MAS: night sleep ↓ Day time sleep ↑. IS: ↓ both MAS and LC MAS > LC. IV: ↓ both MAS and LC postop.	
Kim et al.46	2009	Descriptive study	Hysterectomy	25 (10/15)	TST, SE, WASO and NOA.	NS. 30-sec epoch	Pre 2 days Post 6 weeks	Yes (LVH vs. TAH)	TST, SE and WASO → NOA: ↑ 3 weeks post In both groups. No differences between LVH and TAH.	
Wright et al.44	2009	Descriptive study	Breast surgery	24	MSOT, SET, TST and SE; in relation to pain.	Actiware Mini Mitter, Bend, OR. 1 min epoch	Pre 1 night Post 7 days	No	Negative relationship between pre SE and post pain. No ass. between MSOT, TST, SET and postop pain.	
Iskesen et al.25	2009	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	45 (22/23)	TST, NT/NTD, FOA, DOA, SE, SL, WASO, TAS and SFI.	Actiwatch AW64, mini- mitter, Bend, OR. 30-sec epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 5-8 days	Yes (S100B ↑ vs. S100B ↓)	TST, TAS and SE \downarrow . SL, WASO, FI and NT \uparrow . For both groups. S100B1 group: TST, TAS and SE \downarrow post op. SL, WASO, FI and NT \uparrow .	
Wright et al.45	2010	Descriptive study	Breast surgery	39	TST, SE, SOT and SET.	Actiware Mini Mitter, Bend, OR. 1-min epoch	1 night pre op.	No	TST \downarrow and SE $\downarrow.$	
Casida et al.31	2011	Descriptive study	Cardiac surgery (LVAD)	13	SOL, SE, SFI, TST and WASO.	Actiwatch mini mitter, Bend, OR. 1-min epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 6 months	No	1 week after surgery. SOL \uparrow , SE \downarrow , TST \downarrow and WASO \uparrow . 6 months after surgery: SOL normalized; SE, SFI and TST $\uparrow \downarrow$.	

LVAD, left ventricular assist device; SOL, sleep onset latency; TST, total sleep time; SE, sleep efficiency; WASO, wake after sleep onset; SFI, sleep fragmentation index; SOT, sleep onset time; SET, sleep end time; LVH, laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy; TAH, total abdominal hysterectomy; LC, laparoscopic cholecystectomy; MAS, major abdominal surgery; MSOT, mean sleep onset time; TNAM, total number of active minutes; NORM, number of resting minutes; FOA, frequency of awakening; COA, duration of awakening; COA, careatreen delivery; DS, daytime sleep; NST, nighttime sleep; DN, daytime nap; TIB, time in bed; NT, nap time; TWT, true wake time; TuST, true sleep time; MSI, night sleep/NOA; MWT, mean wake time; NPER, percentage of total sleep occurring at night.

increased in the postoperative week and normalized after one month. Another study²⁵ also showed that the total sleep time, sleep efficiency, number and duration of awakenings, wake after sleep onset, and sleep latency all were disturbed after cardiac surgery. In the same study it was shown that patients with increased S100B (plasma marker of CNS injury) measured 12 h postoperatively had a more disturbed sleep than patients without increased S100B.

General Surgery

Sleep was measured with actigraphy in relation to general surgery in 6 studies.^{2,22-24,37,38} Population size was between 11 and 120 patients; there was one randomized controlled trial.²⁴ The surgical procedures were either laparoscopic,^{23,24,37} major abdominal surgery,^{22,38} or both.² All 6 studies included measurements before and after the surgical procedure. Total sleep time was not changed after laparoscopic procedures,^{24,37} and this was

Author	Year	Design	Surgery-type	n	Actigraphy parameters	Actigraph brand and epoch length	Time of measurement	Control group	Results		
Redeker et al.28	1994	Descriptive study	Cardiac surgery	25	MA, linear trend and FF.	Mini-MotionLogger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Post 1 week	No (women)	MA ↑. FF from 0,012-0,054 pr h. Activity cycles 18,52 – 83,33 h.		
Redeker et al. ²⁹	1995	Descriptive Study	Cardiac surgery (Women)	13	Activity, Mesor, amplitude, acrophase and percent rhythm.	Mini-MotionLogger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Post 6 months	No	T1-T4: activity ↑ day time ↓ during night time. Normalization of sleep-wake rhythm T1 – T4, Amplitude: ↑ T1-T2, ↑ T2-T3. Mesor: ↑ T1-T2, T3-T4. Percent rhythm: T1-T4 ↑.		
Redeker et al. ³⁰	1999	Descriptive Study	CAB (cardiac surgery)	22 (8/14)	DA, acrophase, amplitude, percent rhythm, mesor.	Mini-MotionLogger (AMI). 1 min-epoch	Post 7 days	Yes (middle age (< 65) vs. older age (> 65)	DA: ↑ post op. week. Percent rhythm: ↑ POD 2-5 Amplitude: ↑ POD 2-5 Age effect shown.		
Bisgaard et al.22	1999	Descriptive study	Abdominal surgery	24 (12/12)	MA and SA.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min Epoch.	Post day 2-4	Yes (SP vs. HC)	MA higher in HC than SP SA lower than MA in both groups.		
Bisgaard et al.23	2002	Descriptive study	Lap cholecystectomy	24	MA and TST.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Pre 1 week Post 1 week	No	MA↓ TST↑		
Bisgaard et al.24	2004	RCT	Lap cholecystectomy	86 (43/43)	MA, NST and NOA.	Mini-Motion Logger (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Pre 5 days Post 5 days	Yes (CHO or placebo)	No group differences pre or post op. MA \downarrow NST and NOA \rightarrow .		
Zutshi et al.49	2004	Descriptive study	Major abdominal surgery	15 (3x5)	Wrist and ankle: ACM, ACMd, ACSD, ACI and AI.	Micromini Actigraph (AMI). 1-min epoch.	Post 4 days	Yes (CREAD, TRAD, LC)	ACM \rightarrow , ACMd \rightarrow , ACSD \rightarrow , ACI \rightarrow and AI \rightarrow		
Caumo et al.48	2007	RCT	Abdominal hysterectomy	33 (17/16)	Rest activity cycle- circadian pattern.	Actiwatch-L (mini mitter company). 1-min epoch.	Pre 7 days Post 7 days	Yes (mel/no-mel)	Melatonin group: circadian rhythmicity improves first week after discharge.		
Yilmaz et al. ²⁶	2007	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	85 (45/40)	SL, TST, WASO, TAS, SFI and SE.	Actiwatch AW64, mini- mitter, Bend, OR. 30 sec-epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 5-8 days Controls: 7 days.	Yes (CABG vs. healthy controls)	TAS \downarrow Compared with healthy controls.		
Jacobsen et al.52	2007	Prospective study	Major surgery	13 (6/7)	NORM, TNORM (24h), MACD-D/N and 24h Am.	Octagonal Basic Motionlogger (AMI). 1-min epoch	Post op day 1-3	Yes (delir vs non-delir)	Delirous pt: \downarrow NORM and TNORM, \uparrow MACDN and smaller 24h amplitude.		
Yilmaz et al. ²⁷	2007	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	85 (38/40)	TST, NT/NTD, SE, SL, WASO, TAS and FI.	Actiwatch AW64, mini- mitter, Bend, OR. 30-sec epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 2 months Controls: 7 days.	Yes (CABG vs. healthy controls)	1^{st} and 2^{nd} postop month values normalized to preop values. Age effect: Younger (< 60 years) normalized first postop month and older (> 60 years) 2^{nd} month.		
Gögenur et al ²	2009	Descriptive study	LC and MAS	76 and 44	Sleep duration, IS, IV, L5 and M10.	Octagonal, Basic Motionlogger (AMI). 30-sec epoch	Pre 4 days Post 4 days	2 groups LC and MAS	LC: Night sleep →, Day sleep ↓ MAS: night sleep ↓. Day time sleep ↑. IS: ↓ both MAS and LC MAS > LC. IV: ↓ both MAS and LC post op.		
Osse et al. 50	2009	Descriptive study	Elective cardiac surgery	79	Mean activity/min, NOIM, Restlessness index and activity amplitude.	Actiwatch actigraph Cambridge Neurotechnology Ltd. 1-min epoch	Post 6 days (night 23:00-06:00, day 06:00-23:00)	Yes (Delirious vs. non- delirious)	Night time: ↑ Activity and restlessness index, ↓ NOIM. Day time: Activity ↑ non-delirious group.		
Osse et al.51	2009	Descriptive study	Elective cardiac surgery	70 (38/32)	Mean activity/ min, NOIM, Restlessness index, L5 and M10.	Actiwatch actigraph Cambridge Neurotechnology Ltd. 1-min epoch	Post 1 day (night 23:00-06:00, day 06:00-23:00)	Yes (Delirious vs. non- delirious)	Delirious: ↓ activity and restlessness index post op night. ↑ NOIM and lower mean activity/min in delirious group.		
lskesen et al.25	2009	Descriptive study	CABG (cardiac surgery)	45 (22/23)	TST, NT/NTD, FOA, DOA, SE, SL, WASO, TAS and SFI.	Actiwatch AW64, mini- mitter, Bend, OR. 30 sec-epoch.	Pre 3 days Post 5-8 days	Yes (S100B ↑ vs. S100B ↓)	TST, TAS and SE ↓. SL, WASO, FI and NT ↑. For both groups. S100B↑ group: TST, TAS and SE ↓ post op. SL, WASO, FI, and NT ↑.		

MA, mean activity/min; NOIM, number of immobile minutes; L5, 5 h least activity; M10, 10 h most activity; MACD-D/N, mean activity count during- daytime/nightime; TAS, total activity score; CREAD, controlled postoperative program (fast track); TRAD, traditional care pathway; LC, laparoscopic surgery; ACM, activity mean; ACMd, activity median; ACSD, activity standard deviation; ACI, acceleration index; AI, activity index MOA, motor activity; SA, sleep activity; DA, daytime activity; IS, interday stability; IV, interday variability.

also the case with number of awakenings.^{24,37} The only exception was in the study by Bisgaard et al.,²³ who showed an increase in total sleep time in the first 2 days after uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy. In patients undergoing major abdominal surgery, daytime sleep increased after surgery compared to preoperatively.² Sleep efficiency was also reduced after major abdominal surgery,³⁸ and number of awakenings and wake after sleep onset were increased.³⁸

Ambulatory Surgery

There were 5 studies in the ambulatory setting,^{39,43} where patients underwent orthopedic, plastic, ophthalmic, or minor general surgical procedures. Three of these studies^{39,41} defined sleep impairment as a reduction of one standard deviation in sleep efficiency measured by actigraphy. All 3 studies included both preoperative and postoperative measurements. Two of these studies only included children undergoing outpatient surgery.^{39,40} In these children, 14% to 22% suffered from sleep impairment^{39,40}; in the adult population, 23% had sleep impair-

ment after surgery.⁴¹ A healthy control group was present in 2 of the studies^{40,41}; the studies included 92-95 patients and 35-72 controls. In the adult study, surgical patients also had an increased number of awakenings longer than 5 minutes compared with the healthy controls.⁴¹

In a double-blinded randomized clinical trial,⁴² halothane anesthesia was compared with sevoflurane anesthesia. The study showed no difference between the groups for any of the sleep parameters after ambulatory surgery (total sleep time, sleep efficiency, or number of awakenings). In another randomized clinical trial,⁴³ brotizolam was compared with zopiclone as a preoperative hypnotic with actigraphic measurements of sleep on the night before surgery. Here it was shown that patients treated with brotizolam had better sleep with significantly higher total sleep time than patients treated with zopiclone.

Other Surgical Procedures

Two studies described sleep in relation to breast surgery.^{44,45} One study⁴⁵ showed that intrusive thoughts and anxiety about

the operation were associated with total sleep time and sleep efficiency on the preoperative night. An increasing degree of intrusive thoughts resulted in a reduced total sleep time and sleep efficiency. In a study by the same author,⁴⁴ it was shown that preoperative reduced sleep efficiency measured by actigraphy was an indicator of the severity of postoperative pain. The duration of preoperative sleep had no effect on postoperative pain, but the disruption (low sleep efficiency) of preoperative sleep was an indicator of postoperative pain.

Two studies involved gynecological or obstetric procedures.^{46,47} One study compared caesarian versus vaginal delivery.⁴⁷ The study showed that women undergoing caesarian section had a shorter total sleep time and a higher wake after sleep onset than women having vaginal delivery. The women undergoing caesarian section also had increased daytime sleep. In the other gynecological study,⁴⁶ patients undergoing laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy were compared with patients undergoing total abdominal hysterectomy. In the patient group as a whole, there was an increase in number of awakening 3 weeks after surgery but no change in total sleep time or sleep efficiency. Between the 2 groups, however, there were no significant differences in any of the parameters.⁴⁶

Sleep-Wake Rhythm

Of the 31 studies included in this review, 15 described sleepwake rhythm or rest-activity rhythm in relation to surgery (**Table 2**). The sleep-wake rhythm was quantified as activity levels (mean activity count/minute) but also as mesor, acrophase, amplitudes, and percentage rhythm. Eight of the studies included patients undergoing thoracic surgery,^{25-30,50,51} and 6 studies included patients undergoing general surgery.^{2,22-24,49,52} The last of the 15 studies involved abdominal hysterectomy and was a randomized double-blinded placebo-controlled study.⁴⁸ In the 15 studies, the study population size was between 13 and 120 patients.

Cardiac Surgery

In studies regarding cardiac surgery, the 8 studies included patients undergoing coronary artery bypass.^{25-30,50,51} Only 3 of the cardiac surgery studies²⁵⁻²⁷ included measurements of preoperative activity making pre- and post-surgery comparison possible. All 3 showed a reduction in total activity in the first postoperative week, but the values returned to normal one month postoperatively.

The rest of the studies,^{28-30,50,51} measured only in the postoperative period and can therefore only describe postoperative changes. In 3 of these studies,²⁸⁻³⁰ outcome measures were activity, mesor, acrophase, amplitudes, and percentage rhythm. The studies showed a tendency of increase in the mean activity in the postoperative period until the first month postoperatively. Furthermore an age effect was shown on postoperative day 4, where activity in people < 65 years increased more than in people > 65 years. The amplitude, being a measure of difference between the highest and lowest level of activity during the day, increased from the first week after surgery until 6 weeks postoperatively. The percentage rhythm, a measure of the strength of the daily rest-activity rhythm, was also improved gradually, with an increase from 32% during the first week after surgery to 49% six months postoperatively. Younger people (< 65 years)

had a faster increase in amplitude and percent rhythm in the postoperative period.³⁰ The adjusted mean of the rhythm and the mesor were increased after discharge compared with the first postoperative week in hospital.²⁹ After a period of stagnation between the first weeks after discharge to 6 weeks postoperatively, the mesor increased again until 6 months postoperatively. Acrophase time, which represents the time of peak activity, was placed between 13:00 and 14:00, showing a small variability. Six months postoperatively, the acrophase was between 11:00 and 17:00, showing a greater variability. From the first postoperative week to one week after discharge a phase delay developed; and between 6 weeks and 6 months postoperatively a phase advance was present. In another study,²⁸ it was shown that 14 of 25 patients who had undergone open cardiac surgery had an activity cycle of approximately 24 h; 5 had a shorter activity cycle; and 6 had a longer activity cycle.

Two studies^{50,51} compared patients with and without delirium, and it was shown that delirious patients had a lower level of mean activity 24 h postoperatively, with a higher number of immobile moments during the day period. In the 6-day postoperative period, both groups had increased nighttime activity and reduced number of immobile moments during the day. Patients without delirium showed a higher degree of activity during the whole 5-day postoperative period.⁵¹ Restlessness (% of time spend moving / % of immobility phases of 1 min) showed an increase in the 5-day postoperative period, with non-delirious patients having a higher increase. The number of immobile moments decreased over the 5-day postoperative period, and the non-delirious patients had a lower number than delirious patients.⁵¹

General Surgery

Six studies^{2,22-24,49,52} measured sleep-wake rhythm in relation to general surgery; the population size of these studies was between 13 and 120 patients. Three studies^{2,23,24} measured both preoperatively and postoperatively, including both minor and major abdominal surgery. Two of these studies^{23,24} included patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy, and they both showed a reduction in mean activity following surgery. Mean activity was reduced on postoperative day 0-1 and had normalized by postoperative day 2.

Gögenur et al.² compared the activity rhythm in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy with patients undergoing major abdominal surgery. Interday stability, the degree of resemblance between activity patterns of individual days, dropped after major abdominal surgery and laparoscopic surgery. However, there was a greater decrease in interday stability in the major surgery group compared with the laparoscopic group. Interday variability, a measure of the fragmentation of periods between activities at rest in a 24-h period, showed an increase in the fragmentation of the rhythm and a drop in the amplitude both after major abdominal surgery and laparoscopic surgery.

The other 3 studies^{22,49,52} measured only the postoperative period after major abdominal surgery. In one study,²² mean activity during the day and night was compared between patients undergoing major abdominal surgery and healthy controls. The study showed that mean activity during the day was higher in healthy controls than in the surgical patients. Another descriptive study⁴⁹ of patients undergoing major abdominal surgery found no difference in activity level or trend over time between

MT Madsen, J Rosenberg and I Gögenur

fast-track surgery, laparoscopic, and open surgical procedures. In 13 patients undergoing major abdominal surgery,⁵² it was shown that delirious patients had a lower number of rest minutes, higher mean activity, and smaller 24-h amplitude than non-delirious patients.

Other Surgical Procedures

In a double-blinded randomized trial of melatonin versus placebo, Caumo et al.⁴⁸ measured rest-activity rhythm of patients undergoing abdominal hysterectomy. The first week after discharge, the melatonin group had a better recovery on the 24-h actigraphically determined percentile rhythm.

DISCUSSION

This review set out to give an overview of studies in surgical patients where actigraphy had been used to describe sleep and sleep-wake rhythms. Actigraphy was used in 31 studies in relation to surgery. Actigraphy was primarily used for sleep parameters and in patients undergoing cardiac or general surgery. Use of actigraphy could in the cardiac and general surgery setting demonstrate that total sleep time and sleep efficiency were reduced after surgery. No increase was shown in the number of awakenings after cardiac surgery, but the duration of the awakenings increased. After major abdominal surgery, there was an increase in both number of awakenings and wake after sleep onset, with the sleep time also being reduced at night and increased during the day.² The impaired sleep was normalized one month after surgery, but this was not measured in the general surgical setting. In the outpatient surgery setting, use of actigraphy could demonstrate impairment of sleep, both in children^{39,40} and adults.⁴¹ Use of actigraphy could also be used to show that patients undergoing laparoscopic surgery had less impaired sleep than after major abdominal surgery.² Activity measured by actigraphy could also be used to differentiate between delirious and non-delirious patients after major surgery. The effect of pharmacological interventions, such as hypnotics, different anesthetics, etc., in patients undergoing surgery could be demonstrated by measuring sleep-wake rhythms with actigraphy.

A relevant question in relation to the use of actigraphy is whether the technique has been validated against a gold standard. Actigraphy has been validated against PSG with high levels of correlation.^{17,21,53} For total sleep time, agreement between actigraphy and PSG has been shown to be above 90%.^{17,21,53} High correlation for sleep duration has also been shown in nursing home populations,17 infants,21 and people with sleep related breathing disorders.²¹ With regard to whole night sleep and sleep efficiency, high correlations have also been shown.²⁰ Other sleep variables, however, have reduced validity in actigraphy measurement, e.g., sleep onset latency and wake after sleep onset.¹⁷ Generally, it is in the transition from wake-sleep or sleep-wake where the actigraphy is not precise. However, epoch-by-epoch validation has not been performed in surgical patients. Of the 31 studies included in the review, only one study²² set out to validate actigraphy. Here, activity measured by actigraphy was validated with a sleep and activity questionnaire in 12 patients undergoing major abdominal surgery and in 12 healthy controls. The study concluded that actigraphy was reliable for sleep assessment after major abdominal surgery. Further studies are

needed, though, to establish epoch-by-epoch validation between actigraphy and PSG in various surgical patient groups.

The studies included in this review were heterogeneous. Several types of surgery were included, different study-designs were, used and a varying number of patients were included. It is impossible to make a randomized study of surgery vs. no surgery when investigating the effects of the surgery on sleep and sleep-wake rhythm. The next best thing is a comparison with healthy controls matched for age and sex, and this was done in five of the 31 studies.^{22,26,27,40,41} Also five studies.^{23,24,6,47,49} compared different surgical procedures, three^{42,43,48} compared different pharmacological/anesthetic interventions, and three^{50,51,52} compared patients with and without postoperative delirium. In total 18/31 studies had some kind of comparison group. Thus, actigraphy was used to compare the effect of drugs, type of surgical procedure, and anesthesia in different groups of patients.

It is important to have preoperative measurements when investigating the effect of surgery. Here 19 of 31 studies measured both preoperative and postoperative values. Duration of measurement also seems important; it has been recommended to record continuous data for at least 72 hours.⁵⁴ This will provide sufficient data for simple sleep variables and parametric analysis of circadian variables.¹⁵ However when nonparametric measures of activity rhythm are needed (e.g., the intradaily variability and interdaily stability), at least 7 days of continuous measurement is recommended.⁵⁵ Of the studies included in this review, 24 of 31 studies used continuous measurement for at least 3 days.

The surgical trauma itself is not the only factor that can influence sleep. In a classification system used by Liao et al.,⁵⁶ factors associated with sleep disturbances after heart surgery were divided into four categories: individual, physiological, psychological, and environmental factors. Individual factors are, e.g., age and gender. With regard to age, it was shown that with increasing age, sleep was severely affected and recuperation took longer compared with younger individuals.^{27,56} With the use of actigraphy to assess sleep, it could be shown that it took patients older than 60 years twice as long to regain a normal sleep pattern as patients younger than 60.27 Females perceived their sleep to be worse³⁴ and had longer duration of daytime napping³⁵ than their male comparisons. Psychological factors like depression and anxiety also may play a major role on sleep after CABG surgery and also greatly affects quality of life.⁵⁶ In patients with breast cancer, intrusive thoughts and anxiety about surgery resulted in a reduced sleep efficiency and total sleep time preoperatively measured by actigraphy.⁴⁴ Liao et al.⁵⁶ suggested that management of pain and reduction in the influence of environmental factors (noise, light, or disruption from caretakers) were important to improve sleep quality. It was proposed that a solution could be to synchronize a given care schedule with the patient's sleep-wake rhythm and that actigraphy could be used for this purpose.

Actigraphy could be used in the perioperative period as a diagnostic tool to identify patients in need of special attention. In patients with breast cancer,⁴⁵ it was shown that the low preoperative sleep efficiency was indicative of a higher degree of postoperative pain. So sleep efficiency estimated by actigraphy preoperatively can function as a predictor of increased postoperative pain. Poor sleep the night before a stressful condition may result in a reduced immunologic response to the stressful condition.⁵⁷ Identification of poor sleepers by using actigraphy could be used to identify patients with increased risk of developing sleep problems. Likewise, actigraphy could be used to identify patients with increased risk of developing severe delirium after surgery.⁵⁰⁻⁵² Furthermore it was shown that patients undergoing cardiac surgery with increased S100B (measured 12 h postoperatively) had more disturbed sleep measured by actigraphy.²⁵ Thus, coupling actigraphy measurements with, e.g., S100B measurements could enhance the possibility of finding patients in need of extra attention.

In four studies,^{24,42,43,48} actigraphy was used in a randomized study design, in three to evaluate sleep,^{24,42,43} and in one to evaluate sleep-wake pattern.⁴⁸ Actigraphy was also used to evaluate a medical/pharmaceutical intervention.⁴³ In one of the studies, two different inhalation anaesthetic agents (sevoflurane vs. halothane) were compared in children, and the study showed no difference on the measured sleep parameters.⁴² Bisgaard et al.²⁴ investigated preoperative carbohydrate loading effect on postoperative recovery, and the study showed no difference between the carbohydrate loading group and the placebo group. In another study,⁴³ brotizolam and zopiclone were compared as a preoperative hypnotics, and the actigraphy measurements showed that brotizolam was the better hypnotic with a longer total sleep time. Caumo et al.⁴⁸ showed that preoperatively administered melatonin in patients undergoing hysterectomy resulted in a faster return of circadian rhythm. Thus, actigraphy is a valid tool that can be chosen to test the effect of drugs on patient's sleep or activity rhythm in relation to surgery.

In conclusion, surgery affects sleep and sleep-wake rhythm in a negative manner. With increasing surgical stress, sleep disturbances and circadian disturbances become more pronounced. The disturbances affect people of all ages, although younger age seems to facilitate a faster recovery. Studies using actigraphy in relation to surgery are heterogeneous, and the use of standardized procedures for the use of actigraphy would help with future study comparisons. Further work should strive to follow the guidelines from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.⁵⁸ In spite of this, actigraphy is a relevant tool and can be used to identify patient populations with increased risk of sleep problems in the perioperative period and can be used to measure the effect of the different surgical procedures or drugs.

ABBREVIATIONS

PSG, polysomnography S100B, plasma marker of CNS injury

DEFINITIONS

Total sleep time (TST)

Duration of the sleep episode, based on the actual time of sleep start and sleep end.

Sleep latency (SL)

Difference between time in bed and the actual time the monitored subject starts sleeping.

Mean activity (MA)

Number of movements in 1 min.

Number of awakenings (NOA)

Number of awakenings during the sleep period.

Wake after sleep onset (WASO)

Wake time in minutes after sleep onset.

Sleep efficiency (SE %)

Is the percentage of effective sleep while being in bed at night.

Intradaily variability (IV)

Quantifies the degree of resemblance between the activity patterns on individual days, ranges from 0-1.

Interdaily stability (IS)

Quantifies the fragmentation of periods of rest and activity; ranges from 0-2, with higher values indicating a more fragmented rhythm.

Mesor

Estimates the arithmetic mean of the values throughout the 24-hour period.

Amplitude

Distance from rhythmic mean to peak or trough of a mathematical model.

Percent rhythm

Percent of variance in activity accounted for by the cosinor model.

Acrophase

Time interval during which the highest values of activity are expected.

Source of definitions15,59

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MT Madsen, J Rosenberg and I Gögenur

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