



Effect of the “Recruitment” Maneuver on Respiratory Mechanics in Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy Surgery

Ismail Sümer¹ · Ufuk Topuz^{2,3} · Selçuk Alver⁴ · Tarik Umutoglu³ · Mefkur Bakan^{2,3} · Seniyye Ülgen Zengin⁵ · Halil Coşkun⁶ · Ziya Salihoglu⁷

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Abstract

Purpose LSG surgery is used for surgical treatment of morbid obesity. Obesity, anesthesia, and pneumoperitoneum cause reduced pulmonary functions and a tendency for atelectasis. The alveolar “recruitment” maneuver (RM) keeps airway pressure high, opening alveoli, and increasing arterial oxygenation. The aim of our study is to research the effect on respiratory mechanics and arterial blood gases of performing the RM in LSG surgery.

Materials and Methods Sixty patients undergoing LSG surgery were divided into two groups ($n = 30$). Patients in group R had the RM performed 5 min after desufflation with 100% oxygen, 40 cmH₂O pressure for 40 s. Group C had standard mechanical ventilation. Assessments of respiratory mechanics and arterial blood gases were made in the 10th min after induction (T1), 10th min after insufflation (T2), 5th min after desufflation (T3), and 15th min after desufflation (T4). Arterial blood gases were assessed in the 30th min (T5) in the postoperative recovery unit.

Results In group R, values at T5, PaO₂ were significantly high, while PaCO₂ were significantly low compared with group C. Compliance in both groups reduced with pneumoperitoneum. At T4, the compliance in the recruitment group was higher. In both groups, there was an increase in PIP with pneumoperitoneum and after desufflation this was identified to reduce to levels before pneumoperitoneum.

Conclusion Adding the RM to PEEP administration for morbidly obese patients undergoing LSG surgery is considered to be effective in improving respiratory mechanics and arterial blood gas values and can be used safely.

Keywords Laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy · Recruitment maneuver · PEEP

Purpose

Obesity is defined as abnormal and excessive fat accumulation at levels to disrupt health [1]. Lifestyle changes like diet and exercise and medical treatment, in addition to surgical interventions, are frequently used for treatment of obesity [2]. Laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy (LSG) is a new approach for surgical treatment of morbid obesity [3]. With the increase in surgical interventions for obesity treatment, it is necessary to take more care for anesthesia management of these patients [4]. Obese patients have increased possibility of difficult intubation, in addition to displaying more unwanted effects on the respiratory system, compared with normal patients [5, 6]. Obesity is an important respiratory risk factor as it causes reduced functional residual capacity, compliance and oxygenation in terms of respiratory functions before and after both surgery and anesthesia, in addition to causing a tendency for atelectasis [7, 8]. Reduced functional residual capacity causes

✉ Ismail Sümer
isumer@bezmialem.edu.tr

¹ Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Faculty of Medicine, Bezmialem Vakif University, Istanbul, Turkey

² Health Cares Vocational School, İstanbul Esenyurt University, Istanbul, Turkey

³ İstanbul Acıbadem Taksim Hospital, Istanbul, Turkey

⁴ Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul Medipol University, Istanbul, Turkey

⁵ Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Faculty of Medicine, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

⁶ Department of General Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Bezmialem Vakif University, Istanbul, Turkey

⁷ Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine, İstanbul University Cerrahpasa, Istanbul, Turkey

airway closure in situations with delayed endotracheal intubation and obese patients in the supine position become rapidly desaturated. Additionally, dyspnea, exercise intolerance, and obstructive sleep apnea should be carefully questioned [9].

Intraperitoneal administration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas for laparoscopic surgeries frequently increases intraabdominal pressure, pushing the diaphragm upwards and causing compression of the lungs. The lungs which are already susceptible to atelectasis due to general anesthesia experience increased severity of this effect during laparoscopy [10]. The amelioration of atelectasis developing during general anesthesia for obese patients is slower after the operation compared with nonobese patients. Atelectasis is fully resorbed 24 h after the end of the surgical procedure for nonobese patients, while atelectasis was shown to continue in obese patients at this point [11]. One of the most important aims of anesthesia management during operations on obese patients is to keep the airway and alveoli open during respiration [12]. The techniques of keeping airway pressure high for a duration to open atelectatic areas with the “recruitment maneuver” (RM) and positive expiration end pressure (PEEP) may reduce atelectasis and increase oxygenation [13].

The primary aim of this study is to investigate the effect of RM on postoperative arterial oxygenation after LSG in obese patients. Our secondary aim was to investigate the effects of RV on perioperative respiratory mechanics.

Materials and Methods

This study received ethics committee permission from Bezmialem Vakıf University Faculty of Medicine dated 21.05.2014 numbered 71306642/050-01-04/127. The study included patients aged 18–65 years, American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) III, Body Mass Index (BMI) 40–55 undergoing elective LSG surgery after informing them about the effects of RM performed after desufflation. Written informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

Patients with emergency operation planned, with situations representing contraindications to performing the RM (e.g., bullous lung disease, hemodynamic instability), with respiratory and heart diseases, and using medications that affect respiratory functions like salbutamol, budesonide, and formoterol were excluded from the study.

After routine preoperative preparation, patients with oral intake limited for a sufficient duration had a cannula inserted in the vein on the back of the hand in the preparation room before the procedure. Premedication was not administered. Patients were monitored in the operating room with a three-channel electrocardiogram (ECG), peripheral oxygen saturation (SpO₂), noninvasive blood pressure (NIBP), to estimate the depth of sedation bispectral index (BIS) (E-BIS-00, GE

Healthcare, Finland), which one uses Fourier transform analysis of electroencephalographic data. Neuromuscular blockade was monitored from the adductor pollicis muscle innervated by the ulnar nerve with E-NMT-00 (GE Healthcare, Finland) device. Hemodynamic parameters of patients (systolic, diastolic and mean arterial pressure, heart rate), BIS, SpO₂, and TOF values were recorded perioperatively with 5 min interval.

Corrected weight calculations were performed for all patients; medications and ventilatory settings were adjusted according to this calculation. For anesthesia induction, propofol 2 mg kg⁻¹ and rocuronium 0.6 mg kg⁻¹ were administered and infusions of propofol 10 mg kg⁻¹ hr⁻¹ and remifentanyl 0.25 µg kg⁻¹ min⁻¹ were started. All patients had orotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation with tidal volume of 6 mL kg⁻¹, PEEP of 8 cmH₂O, inspired oxygen (FiO₂) 40%, fresh gas flow of 4 L min⁻¹ and the ventilatory frequency was adjusted to keep end-tidal carbon dioxide (EtCO₂) level between 30 and 35 mmHg. For anesthesia maintenance, propofol infusion was adjusted to keep BIS values between 40 and 60 and remifentanyl infusion was adjusted to keep hemodynamic parameters ± 20 of initial values. Rocuronium was added to keep train-of-four (TOF) response zero.

During the operation, all patients received 5–8 mL kg⁻¹ hr⁻¹ balanced electrolyte solution (isolyte-S) infusion. After Allen test was performed, radial artery was cannulated, and arterial pressure was monitored. Arterial blood gases (pH, pO₂, pCO₂, HCO₃, lactate) were analyzed with RAPIDLab 1200 Systems (Siemens Healthcare GmbH, Federal Republic of Germany). From the start of mechanical ventilation, respiratory mechanics of compliance, peak inspiration pressure (PIP), plateau airway pressure (Pplateau), and airway resistance (Raw) were monitored with a spirometry device (E-COVX–Spirometry–00, GE Healthcare, Finland).

Patients who met the inclusion criteria were divided into two groups; one who received RM (group R, *n* = 30) and the control group (group C, *n* = 30) without RM in a 1:1 randomized closed envelope manner (reviewer no. 1). Recruitment maneuver applied under 100% oxygen, with 40 cmH₂O airway pressure for 40 s duration. Patients in group R received RM one time, 5 min after desufflation of the pneumoperitoneum, after RM FiO₂ was adjusted to 40% again. If hemodynamic instability and hypoxia developed, the RM was stopped. In both groups, arterial blood gas samples were obtained 10 min after induction (T1), 10 min after insufflation (T2), 5 min after desufflation (T3), and 15 min after desufflation (T4) while respiratory mechanic measurements (compliance, PIP, Pplateau, Raw) were recorded simultaneously. Patients were not disconnected from the respiratory cycle until extubation. Additionally, 30 min after extubation (T5), blood gas assessment was performed in the recovery unit.

All patients received 2 mg kg⁻¹ sugammadex and were extubated under 40% FiO₂ when neuromuscular monitoring TOF ratio was ≥ 0.9 . In the recovery unit, all patients received 5 L min⁻¹ oxygen through a face mask. For postoperative analgesia, 100 mg tramadol was administered 10 min before the end of the operation and local anesthetic infiltration (bupivacaine 0.5%) was administered to the trocar entry points at the end of surgery.

Statistical Analysis

The data obtained were statistically analyzed. When analyzing findings obtained in the study, the IBM SPSS version 20 (IBM SPSS, Turkey) program was used for statistical analysis. A statistical power analysis was performed for sample size estimation, based on data from published study, Whalen et al. [14]. In the present study, effect size was estimated as 0.77, alpha was defined as 0.05, and power as 0.90, the projected sample size needed with this effect size (GPower 3.1) is approximately $N = 58$. A total of 29 patients would be required in each group for this simplest between group comparisons. When assessing study data, fit of parameters to normal distribution was evaluated with the Shapiro-Wilk test. When assessing study data, descriptive statistical methods (mean, standard deviation, frequency) were used. For comparison of quantitative data with parameters showing normal distribution, two groups were compared with the student *t* test, while comparison of two groups without normal distribution used the Mann-Whitney U test. Analysis of more than two measurements obtained in a single group for values without normal distribution used the Friedman test. Significance was assessed at $p < 0.05$ level. After the Friedman test, two-way comparisons of within-group measurements used the Wilcoxon signed ranks test to identify the difference. For blood gas measurements, significance for 5 measurements with a total of 10 two-way comparisons was evaluated at the $p < 0.005$ level and for respiratory mechanics, significance for 4 measurements with a total of 6 two-way comparisons was evaluated at $p < 0.008$ level.

Results

The study included 60 patients undergoing LSG surgery for morbid obesity from 01.06.2014 to 01.02.2015. The mean age of all patients included in the study was 38.25 ± 10.37 years. There were 30 patients each in group C and group R. The sex distribution was equal in the groups of patients included in the study. Patients did not develop any hemodynamic complications. No patient required intensive care.

There were no statistically significant differences between the mean age, weight, height, BMI, calculated corrected

weight, anesthesia duration, and surgical duration between the groups (Table 1).

There was no statistically significant difference between the pH values in the control and recruitment groups at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 measurements. In both groups, the pH values measured at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$ for both groups with the Friedman test). In both groups, blood gas pH values at T2, T3, T4, and T5 were statistically significantly low compared with the pH at T1 ($p < 0.001$ for all analyses with Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

There was no statistically significant difference between the groups in terms of PaO₂ values at T1, T2, T3, and T4 ($p = 0.352$, $p = 0.092$, $p = 0.34$, $p = 0.169$, respectively). However, when the T5 value is examined, the PaO₂ value in group R was statistically significantly high compared with the PaO₂ value in group C ($p = 0.017$, Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

When both groups are compared within themselves, the PaO₂ values at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 were statistically significantly different ($p = 0.008$ for group C, $p < 0.001$ for group R, Friedman test). The difference observed in group C was due to the T3 PaO₂ value being statistically significantly high compared with the T1 PaO₂ value ($p = 0.004$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). In group C, the T4 PaO₂ value was not statistically significantly different from the T1, T2, and T3 PaO₂ values ($p > 0.05$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). In group R, the T4 PaO₂ value was statistically significantly high compared with the T1, T2, and T3 values ($p = 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, $p = 0.001$, respectively), Wilcoxon signed ranks test (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

At T1, T2, T3, and T4 measurements, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups in terms of PaCO₂ values ($p = 0.141$, $p = 0.605$, $p = 0.075$, and $p = 0.107$, respectively). However, when the T5 value is examined, the

Table 1 Demographic data, surgical duration, and anesthesia duration in the groups

	Group C ($n = 30$)	Group R ($n = 30$)	<i>P</i>
Age (years)	38.7 ± 11.2	37.8 ± 9.7	0.74
Sex (F/M)	26/4	26/4	
Weight (kg)	120.3 ± 17	127.97 ± 17	0.087
Height (cm)	163 ± 7.7	165 ± 8.3	0.33
BMI (kg m ⁻²)	45.4 ± 4.1	47.2 ± 4.6	0.12
Corrected weight (kg)	81.1 ± 11	85.4 ± 11.2	0.135
Ideal weight (kg)	55.2 ± 8	56.8 ± 9	0.49
Anesthesia duration (min)	124 ± 18.7	130 ± 19	0.232
Surgery duration (min)	88.1 ± 19.2	93 ± 19	0.322

BMI, body mass index. Values given as mean \pm standard deviation or patient numbers. Student *t* test was used

Table 2 Analysis of pH, PaO₂, PaCO₂, and HCO₃ values in the groups

		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
pH	Group C (n = 30)	7.42 ± 0.04 ^b	7.37 ± 0.04	7.36 ± 0.04	7.37 ± 0.04	7.40 ± 0.05
	Group R (n = 30)	7.42 ± 0.03 ^b	7.36 ± 0.03	7.34 ± 0.05	7.36 ± 0.04	7.39 ± 0.03
	P	0.800	0.830	0.337	0.327	0.800
PaO ₂ (mmHg)	Group C (n = 30)	163.3 ± 52.5	173.9 ± 47	177.6 ± 44.2 ^c	177 ± 62.2	151.7 ± 39
	Group R (n = 30)	150.1 ± 55.7	153.4 ± 48.2	166.2 ± 47.9	211.5 ± 77.1 ^d	177.4 ± 37.9
	P	0.352	0.092	0.340	0.169	0.017 ^a
PaCO ₂ (mmHg)	Group C (n = 30)	40.8 ± 5.9	44.6 ± 4.8 ^c	42.7 ± 4.9	40.4 ± 5.7	42.7 ± 4.2
	Group R (n = 30)	39.1 ± 4.1	44.1 ± 3.4 ^c	45.2 ± 6 ^c	42.4 ± 6 ^c	39.9 ± 2.7 ^e
	P	0.141	0.605	0.075	0.107	0.012 ^a
HCO ₃	Group C (n = 30)	25.8 ± 2.5	25.4 ± 2.2	24.2 ± 2.5 ^f	23.4 ± 2.5 ^f	22.8 ± 2.8 ^f
	Group R (n = 30)	25 ± 2.2	24.9 ± 1.9	24.6 ± 2.4	24 ± 2.3	23.8 ± 1.9
	P	0.158	0.375	0.559	0.308	0.096

PaO₂, arterial oxygen pressure; PaCO₂, arterial carbon dioxide pressure; HCO₃, bicarbonate value. Values give as mean ± standard deviation. Comparisons between groups used Mann-Whitney U test; comparisons within groups used Wilcoxon signed ranks test

^a Comparison between groups is statistically significant

^b Within groups, comparisons with T2, T3, T4, and T5 are statistically significant

^c Within groups, comparisons with T1 are statistically significant

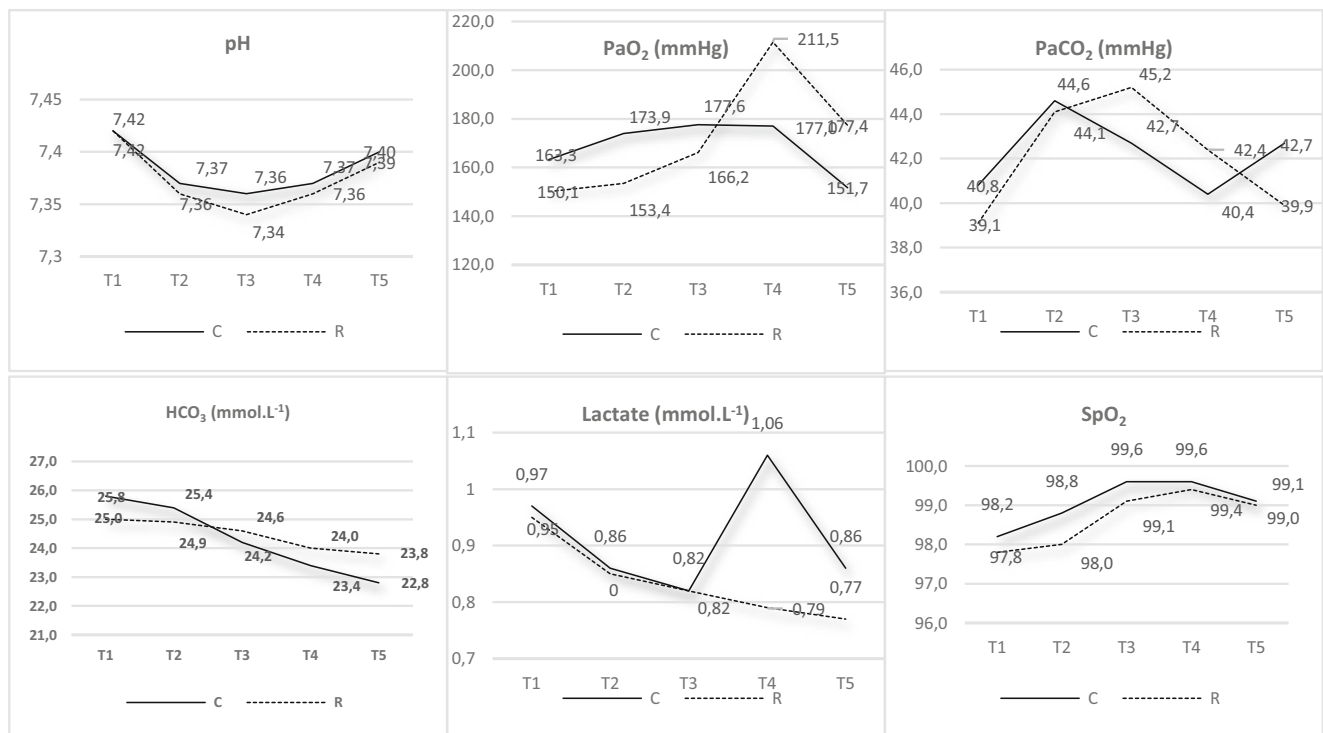
^d Within groups, comparisons with T1, T2, and T3 are statistically significant

^e Within groups, comparisons with T2 and T3 are statistically significant

^f Within groups, comparisons with T1 and T2 are statistically significant

PaCO₂ value in group R was statistically significantly low compared with the PaCO₂ value in group C ($p = 0.012$, Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

The PaCO₂ values measured at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 were statistically significantly different within both groups ($p < 0.001$ for both groups, Friedman test). In group C, this

**Fig. 1** Graphs of pH, PaO₂, PaCO₂, HCO₃, and SpO₂ variations in groups

difference was due to the T2 PaCO₂ value being statistically significantly high compared with the T1 PaCO₂ value ($p < 0.001$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). In group R, the T2, T3, and T4 measurements were statistically significantly high compared with the T1 measurements ($p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, $p = 0.003$, respectively, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). Additionally, the T5 value was statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 values ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.001$, respectively, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

There was no statistically significant difference between the HCO₃ values between the groups at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 measurements (Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

Within group C, HCO₃ values in blood gas measurements at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$, Friedman test). This difference in group C was due to the T3 HCO₃ value being statistically significantly lower than the T1 and T2 values, ($p = 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, respectively); the T4 HCO₃ value being statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 values ($p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, respectively); and the T5 HCO₃ value being statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 values ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.001$, respectively, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 2 and Fig. 1).

There was no statistically significant difference between the lactate values between the groups at T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5 measurements (Mann-Whitney U test).

There was no statistically significant difference between the compliance values in the groups at T1, T2, and T3 measurements. However, when the T4 compliance value is examined, the compliance in group R was statistically significantly high compared with the compliance in group C ($p = 0.043$, Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 2 and Fig. 2).

Within both groups, the compliance values measured at T1, T2, T3, and T4 were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$, Friedman test). The compliance value measured at T4 in group C was not statistically different from the compliance value measured at T1, while it was significantly higher than the T2 value ($p < 0.001$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). In group R, the T4 compliance value was found to be statistically significantly high compared with the T1, T2, and T3 measurements ($p < 0.001$ for all, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 2 and Fig. 2).

There was no statistically significant difference in terms of the Raw values in the control group and recruitment group at T1, T2, T3, and T4 measurements (Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

Within both groups, the Raw values measured at T1, T2, T3, and T4 were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$ for both groups, Friedman test). This difference in group C was due to the T3 Raw value being statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 Raw values ($p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$); additionally, in group C the T4 Raw value was

statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 measurements ($p < 0.001$, $p < 0.001$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test). In group R, this difference was due to the T3 Raw value being statistically significantly low compared with the T1 and T2 Raw values ($p = 0.002$, $p = 0.004$, respectively) and the T4 Raw value being statistically significantly low compared with the T1 value ($p = 0.002$, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

There was no statistically significant difference between the PIP measurement values in the groups at T1, T2, T3, and T4 measurements (Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

Within both groups, the PIP values measured at T1, T2, T3, and T4 were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$ for both groups, Friedman test). This difference in both groups was due to the T2 PIP value being statistically significantly high compared with the T1, T3, and T4 PIP measurements ($p < 0.001$ for all measures in both groups, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

The Pplateau values at T1, T2, T3, and T4 measurements in both groups were not statistically significantly different (Mann-Whitney U test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

Within both groups, the T1, T2, T3, and T4 Pplateau values were statistically significantly different ($p < 0.001$ in both groups, Friedman test). This difference was due to the T2 Pplateau value being statistically significantly high compared with the T1, T3, and T4 Pplateau measurements in both groups ($p < 0.001$ for all measures in both groups, Wilcoxon signed ranks test) (Table 3 and Fig. 2).

Discussion

There is no guideline with definite rules for ventilation strategies in obese patients. However, in the literature, PEEP applied after the recruitment maneuver and less than 80% FiO₂ administration methods recommended to maintain physiological oxygenation [15, 16]. Lung-protective ventilation strategy (approximately 8 ml kg⁻¹ tidal volume and administered using estimated true body weight), PEEP administration, and alveolar recruitment maneuvers prevent atelectasis and positively affect intraoperative gas exchange which prevents the development of hypoxemia [12, 17]. High PEEP administration prevents the decrease in lung volume at the end of expiration formed by increased intraabdominal pressure and in this way is reported to have positive effects on respiratory mechanics, gas exchange, and PaO₂ values in morbidly obese patients [18, 19]. A variety of studies have reported that administration of PEEP with the RM ensures better oxygenation and compliance compared with patients with only PEEP applied [20–24]. With the aim of investigating the effects of PEEP and recruitment, there are studies performed by CT or MR imaging for each patient and evaluated according to the results of these

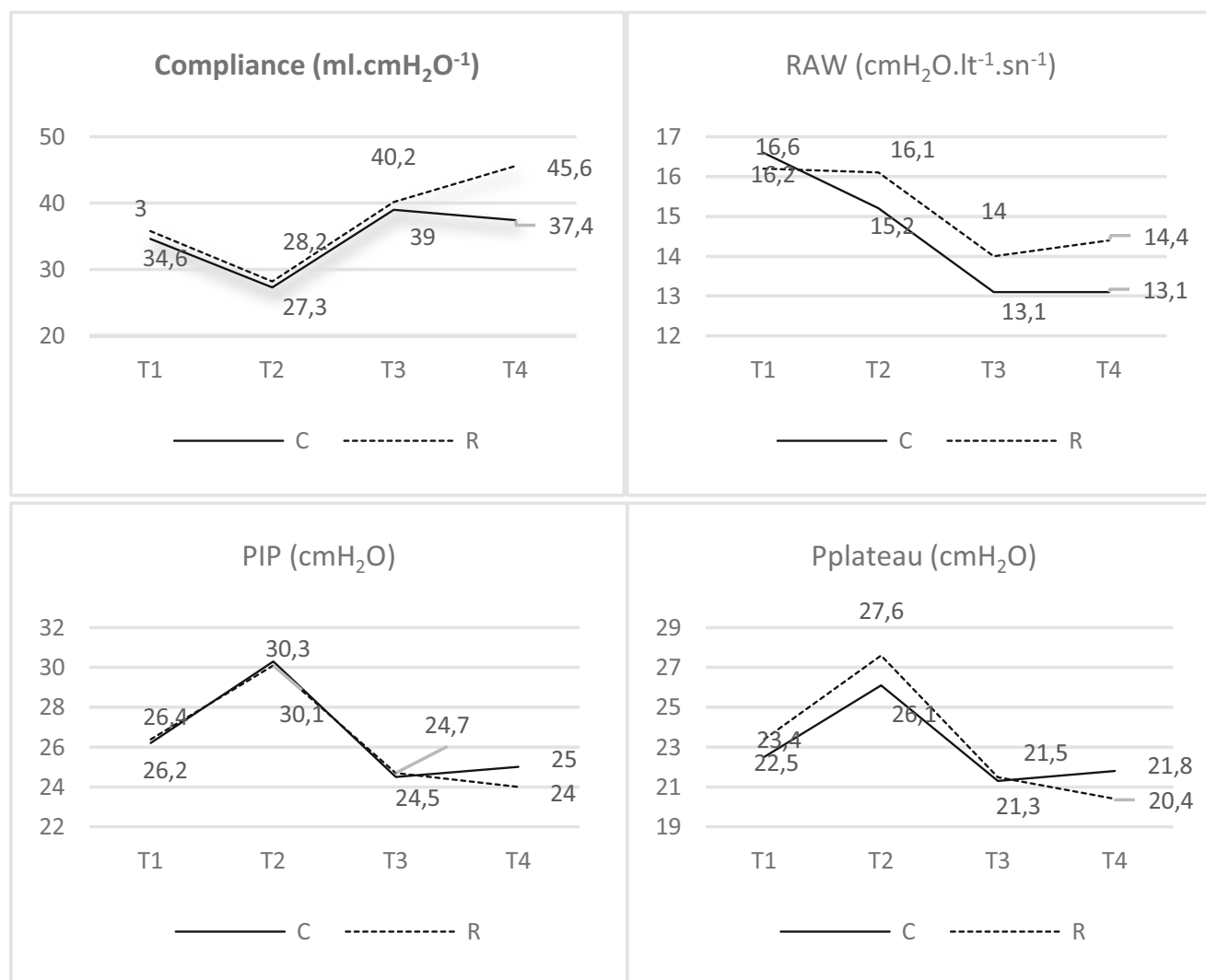


Fig. 2 Graphs of compliance, Raw, PIP, and Pplateau variations in groups

imaging methods [25–27]. Two studies by Rothen et al. [26, 27] administered at least 40 cmH₂O pressure for 7–8 s duration and observed that all atelectatic lung tissues opened, there was a marked reduction in the amount of shunt and oxygenation significantly improved. Henzler et al. [28] in an animal study performed the recruitment maneuver with 45 cmH₂O pressure for 40 s and found the RM provided an increase in ventilation of weakly ventilated lung volumes. In our study, we attempted to determine the efficacy of PEEP and RM using respiratory mechanics values and arterial blood gas measurements due to the cost increase caused by these imaging methods and the technical difficulties of performing CT and MR imaging for obese patients. We used PEEP and the RM together. Talab et al. [29] stated there was better oxygenation, less atelectasis, and less postoperative respiratory complications with no barotrauma encountered in the group with 10 cmH₂O PEEP and 40 cmH₂O recruitment procedure for 7–8 s. Golparvar et al. [30] performed in their study in 3 groups; multiple deep breathing maneuvers, PEEP, and both.

They reported that 40 cmH₂O with 5 multiple deep breathing was less effective than only PEEP administration or both used together. In our study, during the operation, PEEP administered with 8 cmH₂O at the beginning before insufflation lasted until the end of the operation, while the RM was performed 5 min after desufflation with 40 cmH₂O pressure for 40 s duration. We used 100% oxygen only during the RM and as part of this maneuver for only 40 s. This is the limitation of our study. Although we used this FiO₂ value, there was no difference between the groups in the T4 measurements performed at the 15th min after desufflation. T5 was the 30th min measurement after extubation and the difference between the two groups appeared in this measurement. This difference was more relevant with the pressure and duration we used. In fact, in one study, recruitment maneuver with low oxygen concentration has been shown to be more effective for oxygenation. [31] We found that the PaO₂ value in the recruitment group was significantly high compared with the control group at T5. Hemmes et al. [32] administered high PEEP (12 cmH₂O) to

Table 3 Comparison of compliance, raw, PIP, and Pplateau values in groups

		T1	T2	T3	T4
Compliance	Group C (<i>n</i> = 30)	34.6 ± 8.1	27.3 ± 5.6	39 ± 9	37.4 ± 8.2 ^b
	Group R (<i>n</i> = 30)	35.8 ± 11.3	28.2 ± 6.3	40.2 ± 11.1	45.6 ± 15 ^c
	<i>P</i>	0.988	0.888	0.941	0.043 ^a
Raw (cmH ₂ O lt ⁻¹ sn ⁻¹)	Group C (<i>n</i> = 30)	16.6 ± 5.7	15.2 ± 3.6	13.1 ± 3.2 ^d	13.1 ± 3.1 ^d
	Group R (<i>n</i> = 30)	16.2 ± 5.6	16.1 ± 4.4	14 ± 3.6 ^d	14.4 ± 4.8 ^e
	<i>P</i>	0.629	0.474	0.368	0.38
PIP (cmH ₂ O)	Group C (<i>n</i> = 30)	26.2 ± 4.5	30.3 ± 3.8 ^f	24.5 ± 3.3	25 ± 3.3
	Group R (<i>n</i> = 30)	26.4 ± 4.2	30.1 ± 3.4 ^f	24.7 ± 4.7	24 ± 4.1
	<i>P</i>	0.795	0.818	0.97	0.176
Pplateau (cmH ₂ O)	Group C (<i>n</i> = 30)	22.5 ± 4.7	26.1 ± 5.6 ^f	21.3 ± 3	21.8 ± 3.2
	Group R (<i>n</i> = 30)	23.4 ± 3.8	27.6 ± 3.5 ^f	21.5 ± 4.6	20.4 ± 4
	<i>P</i>	0.543	0.338	0.87	0.132

Raw, air way resistance; *PIP*, peak inspiratory pressure; *Pplateau*, plateau pressure. Values given as mean ± standard deviation. Comparisons between groups used Mann-Whitney U test; comparisons within groups used Wilcoxon sign test

^a Comparison between groups is statistically significant

^b Within groups, comparisons with T2 are statistically significant

^c Within groups, comparisons with T1, T2, and T3 are statistically significant

^d Within groups, comparisons with T1 and T2 are statistically significant

^e Within groups, comparisons with T1 statistically significant

^f Within groups, comparisons with T1, T3, and T4 are statistically significant

obese patients undergoing open abdominal surgery and stated it was not protective in terms of postoperative pulmonary complications. They stated that for intraoperative protective ventilation strategy, it is necessary to ensure low TV and low PEEP (2 cmH₂O) without recruitment. Our study group underwent laparoscopic surgery and there are studies showing that due to the negative effects on lung dynamics, our patients were more susceptible to atelectasis development [7, 8, 10]. Findings during open surgery may be different from laparoscopic surgery. As a result, we applied relatively high PEEP along with the RM in our study.

Arterial blood gas analysis are one of the best methods to assess pulmonary function. The first parameter examined to assess the acid-base balance is pH [33]. Iwasaka et al. [34] investigated that blood gas analysis during laparoscopic surgery with increased intraabdominal pressure and CO₂ insufflation decreases in arterial pH and increases in PaCO₂ values due to CO₂ retention. When we assessed pH, HCO₃, and PaCO₂ data in our study, we did not identify a difference between the two groups for pH values; however, we determined a decrease pH values at T2, T3, and T4 in both groups compared with the T1 pH value. In our study, there was no difference between the two groups in terms of HCO₃ values. We did not identify any difference between the groups in terms of PaCO₂ values during surgery. However, the PaCO₂ value in the recruitment group examined in blood gases at T5 was low compared with the control group PaCO₂ value (within normal limits). With pneumoperitoneum, PaCO₂ values

increase, while this value decreases after pneumoperitoneum and we identified that this was significant in the recruitment group.

Sprung et al. [35] reported a 30% reduction in compliance and 68% increase in Raw in supine position for morbidly obese patients compared with normal weight patients. In laparoscopic surgery, PIP, Raw, and Pplateau increase, compliance decreases [35–38]. After desufflation, PIP and Pplateau decrease and compliance increases; however, it was shown to be 14% reduced compared with the value before insufflation [38]. It is proposed that the RM performed after desufflation in laparoscopic surgery is effective to completely regain lung compliance [35]. According to the data obtained in our study, we think the RM performed with PEEP has greater positive effects on compliance. When Raw is investigated, contrary to previous studies [36], we found Raw reduced during surgery. PIP values in both groups increased with insufflation, and we identified they regressed to values before pneumoperitoneum with desufflation. Based on the findings from Raw and PIP measurements, we concluded that 8 cmH₂O PEEP administration is beneficial during laparoscopy of obese patients.

Nielsen et al. [39] evaluated the effects of the RM on central hemodynamics in situations with hypovolemia, normovolemia, and hypervolemia. They found that during hypovolemia, left ventricular end-diastolic volume and cardiac output significantly decreased, while hypervolemia prevented these effects. In our study, we administered

balanced IV fluid replacement to our patients to avoid hypovolemia. We did not encounter hypotension related to ventilator strategy in any of our patients in either group.

Based on the findings obtained in our study, we believe adding the RM to PEEP administration for morbidly obese patients undergoing LSG surgery is a more effective method to improve respiratory mechanics and arterial blood gas values that can be used safely.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Conflict of Interest The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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