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## Liposuction "Conscious Sedation" Monitored Anesthesia Care and Level of Consciousness Monitoring

Congratulations to Scarborough et al. [4] on their recent liposuction monitored anesthesia care publication. Unfortunately, using the Ramsey sedation scale to titrate the depth of propofol sedation is using 20th century technology when 21st century technology [3] is readily available and more precise. The authors describe using a 1-mg/kg bolus of propofol, which is an appropriate induction dose for general anesthesia, while claiming to be performing "conscious sedation." Using a bispectral index level of consciousness monitoring, I routinely obtain moderate to deep sedation (depending on whether airway intervention is required (Table 1)) with propofol using multiple 150- $\mu$ g/kg/20 s miniboluses and maintaining a 50- to 100- $\mu$ g/kg/min infusion [1], as compared with the authors' report of using 50- to 150- $\mu$ g/kg/min for "conscious sedation."

Although the authors undoubtedly have enjoyed good success in their 15-year clinical experience, the path they outline is fraught with danger for those

untrained in airway management. Inability to rescue from unintended deep levels of sedation/anesthesia is what may produce disaster instead of success. A recent publication [2] states that even a registered nurse directed by a surgeon may administer intravenous medications under the guise of patient safety! The money saved on anesthesia professional fees will be "penny wise and pound foolish" when the costs of the inevitable medical liability claim is settled.

Also, this report does not indicate the number of times the airway was lost, requiring a jaw thrust, nor does it mention of the incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting. Finally, I sincerely doubt that a 6-mm liposuction cannula would meet many surgeons' definition of a "microcannula," as the authors claim it to be.

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**Table 1.** Continuum of sedation depth: definition of general anesthesia and levels of sedation/analgesia<sup>a</sup>

Minimal sedation: "anxiolysis"	Moderate sedation/analgesia: "conscious sedation"	Deep sedation/analgesia	General anesthesia
Responsiveness Normal Response	Purposeful <sup>b</sup> Response to verbal or tactile stimulation	Purposeful <sup>b</sup> Response to verbal or painful Stimulation	Unarousable, even with repeated painful stimulation
Airway Unaffected	No intervention required	Intervention may be required	Intervention often is required
Spontaneous ventilation Unaffected	Adequate	May be inadequate	Frequently inadequate
Cardiovascular function Unaffected	Usually maintained	Usually maintained	May be impaired

<sup>a</sup>American Society of Anesthesiology, Standards, Guidelines, and Statements. <sup>b</sup>Reflex withdrawal from a painful stimulus is not considered a purposeful response.

### References

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