

**Title:** Morbid Obesity and the Prone Position

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**Abstract:**

An increasing number of obese patients are now presenting for surgery. Procedures previously considered too dangerous are routinely scheduled, even for patients with morbid obesity. Because of concerns about impairment of physiological function, the very obese patient may be placed in the less than optimal position for the planned procedure. There have been no reports on how extremely obese patients tolerate the prone position. We recently had the opportunity to anesthetize a morbidly obese woman who required several operations in the prone position. We employed a different anesthetic technique on each occasion and demonstrated that with proper positioning, respiratory compliance, oxygenation, and ventilation can be safely maintained.