

Sleep Apnea Assignment

(Online Content 1H)

Unit Objectives:

- Understand the relationship(s) between obstructive sleep apnea and cardiovascular risk. (1,2,6,7)*

In order to receive full credit (1H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by 2/26/2026 at 0800. Any assignment not completed in its entirety will result in missed class time.

You may have to copy and paste this link to your browser.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40248-019-0172-9>

Refer to the above article and fill in the blanks for the following questions. Submit to the Sleep Apnea Dropbox by 0800, 2/26/2026. If you are unable to ctrl/click to open the article, copy and paste the link in the address box.

- 1) What is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) characterized by?

OSA is characterized by collapse of upper airways during sleep with ineffective respiratory efforts, intermittent hypoxia and sleep disruption.

- 2) How does the distribution of comorbidities differ between men and women?

The distribution of comorbidities differs between men and women with diabetes and ischemic heart disease being more prevalent in men with OSA, and hypertension and depression being more prevalent in women with OSA.

- 3) Name 10 common comorbidities often present in OSA patients.
 - a. . Systemic hypertension
 - b. . Cardiovascular events and/or death
 - c. . Arrhythmias
 - d. . Cerebrovascular disease
 - e. . Metabolic syndrome
 - f. . Diabetes
 - g. . Renal disease

- h. . COPD
- i. . Asthma
- j. . Cancer

4) The best studied cardiovascular comorbidity in OSA is **_systemic hypertension_**.

5) What arrhythmia is especially prevalent in OSA patients?

a. Atrial fibrillation

6) Highly prevalent in OSA patients, the metabolic syndrome is a pre-diabetic state associated with **_central obesity_** and **_increased cardiovascular risk_**.

7) Untreated OSA in diabetic patients is associated with increased prevalence of **_neuropathy_**, **_peripheral arterial disease_**, **diabetic retinopathy_**, and **_diabetic nephropathy_**.

8) The association between OSA and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is known as what?

a. Overlap syndrome

9) Sleep studies confirmed that OSA is **_more common_** in asthmatics than in controls, and the combination of OSA and asthma had a higher frequency of **_asthma exacerbations_**.

10) Careful assessment of **_comorbidities_** should become standard clinical practice for OSA patients.