

# Tracheal Intubation does not Provoke Bronchospasm in Patients with Bronchial Asthma under Thoracic Epidural Anesthesia

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**Abstract :** **Background :** The purpose of this study was to survey the occurrence of bronchospasm during upper abdominal surgery in patients with bronchial asthma who underwent gastrectomy under thoracic epidural anesthesia either with or without tracheal intubation. **Methods :** Fifty patients with bronchial asthma who underwent gastrectomy were managed with epidural anesthesia either with (n=19) or without (n=31) tracheal intubation during surgery. The occurrence of bronchospasm during anesthesia and surgery was studied. **Results:** None of the patients whose trachea was intubated developed bronchospasm (0/19[ 0% ]). There was only one episode of mild bronchospasm( 1/31[ 3% ])immediately after thoracic epidural anesthesia in the patients whose trachea was not intubated. The bronchospasm disappeared after the establishment of thoracic epidural anesthesia. There was no statistically significant difference in the incidence of bronchospasm between the patients whose trachea was intubated and those who were not intubated. **Conclusions:**Under thoracic epidural anesthesia, tracheal intubation did not provoke bronchospasm, and the occurrence of bronchospasm during upper abdominal surgery was low even in patients with bronchial asthma.

**Key words :** Epidural anesthesia, Tracheal intubation, Bronchial asthma, Bronchospasm