

Products	Boost™ head positioner
Procedural Area	ERCP
Article	Positioning the surgical patient
Publication	Washington SJ. Smurthwaite GJ. Positioning the surgical patient. Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine 2009;10:476-9
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Purpose	Discuss the positions commonly used for surgical procedures, complications associated with the positions, and methods used to reduce the incidence of complications due to patient positioning.
Key Points	<p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal of positioning: to facilitate surgical access and to reduce the risk of patient injury. • Optimal positioning is quite a challenge and requires good communication between the surgeon, anesthesiologist and team members. <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anesthetized patients are incapable of protecting themselves from the effect of malpositioning. • Responsibility of the anesthesiologist and rest of team to protect patients during positioning. <p><u>Prone Position</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most frequently associated with position-related injuries. • Represents considerable challenge to surgical team. • Common complications: facial swelling eye swelling and temporary blurred vision. • Optimal face, neck and head position can be best achieved with a purpose-designed mask or positioning aid.
Conclusions	Proper positioning techniques and good communication are vital to the health and safety of a patient undergoing a procedure. Device aids and positioners are tools to help with optimal positioning.
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