

**Abstract:**

*PERIOPERATIVE POSITIONING MANAGEMENT IN GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SURGERY: A NATIONAL NOGGO-AGO INTERGROUP SURVEY*

**Aims**

Approximately 4% of all medical complications are perioperative positioning injuries. Aims of the survey were the analysis of perioperative positioning management in gynaecologic-oncological surgery, the process- and structure-reliability and the implementation of current guidelines into daily clinical practice.

**Method**

We sent an anonymous multiple-choice questionnaire to all gynecological departments in Germany. Sixty questions were divided into five different parts: 1) descriptive information about the department, 2) focus on the pre- and 3) postoperative management, 4) on the quality management, and 5) information regarding the positioning management in the operation room based on two fictional case examples in gynecologic oncology procedures.

**Results**

184 of 633 departments participated in the survey (June-September 2016). 48,8% of all participating departments declared complications related to intraoperative positioning, independent from department size. Knowledge of the current guideline on positioning did not impact the incidence of complications. Positioning of the patient was mentioned in the team-time-out procedure in 66.1% of the participating departments. No difference was found between high-volume and low-volume gynecologic oncologic operative departments with regard to the use of supportive tools such as anti-thrombotic leg pumps. 92.7% included information of positioning injuries into the written informed consent. Knowledge of the guideline or a previous legal dispute did not influence the willingness to inform about possible positioning-related complications.

**Conclusion**

The awareness of perioperative positioning management in gynecologic cancer surgery is high throughout all departments in Germany. Almost half of all 184 participating departments report positioning-related complications in the previous 12 months, stressing the importance of this often underrated topic.

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