

# Optimizing Ketamine-Propofol Collaboration to Prevent SpO<sub>2</sub> Decrease in TIVA Patients at RSU Emanuel Banjarnegara

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**Abstract:** **Introduction:** Total Intravenous Anesthesia (TIVA) is a widely used anesthetic technique that relies entirely on intravenous agents. However, one of its challenges is the potential reduction in oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) during induction. Ketamine and propofol are commonly used anesthetic agents and their combination is hypothesized to optimize hemodynamic stability and prevent SpO<sub>2</sub> decline. **Objectives:** This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of ketamine-propofol collaboration in maintaining oxygen saturation during TIVA induction at RSU Emanuel Banjarnegara. **Methods:** This study was a quasi-experimental study with 50 TIVA patients who met the inclusion criteria. **Result:** The study found that patients receiving the ketamine-propofol combination exhibited a more stable SpO<sub>2</sub> level compared to those receiving propofol alone. The mean decrease in SpO<sub>2</sub> was significantly lower in the combination group ( $p < 0.05$ ), indicating the protective effect of ketamine in preventing hypoxia. The combo group also maintained hemodynamic indicators including blood pressure and heart rate better. **Conclusion:** The simultaneous injection of Ketamine and Propofol is beneficial in preventing a drop in SpO<sub>2</sub> 1 minute after induction of anesthesia compared to the combination of Propofol alone.

**Keywords:** Anesthesia; Ketamine; Oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>); Propofol; Total intravenous anesthesia (TIVA)

## Introduction

Total intravenous anesthesia (TIVA) is a method of anesthesia that does not require inhalation agents by using intravenous medications for induction, maintenance, and recovery from anesthesia (Kampman et al., 2024). The advancement of TIVA in the field of anesthesia is gaining popularity due to its many advantages, ranging from rapid onset as well as short duration of action, precise control of anesthetic depth as well and rapid recovery making TIVA the right choice for patients with cardiovascular or respiratory comorbidities (Lone & Dar, 2023).

TIVA is conducted with a mixture of anesthetic medications to overcome the shortcomings of each agent (Watanabe et al., 2023). Using several classes of

anesthetic medications in TIVA is important for complete and balanced anesthesia (Al-Rifai & Mulvey, 2016). The combination of anesthetic drugs will lower the single dose, therefore lowering the adverse effects of each anesthetic drug (Ali et al., 2023).

Oxygen saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) is an important indicator that should be monitored while the patient is under anesthesia during a surgical procedure. The normal value of SpO<sub>2</sub> is 95% to 100%. Factors causing a decrease in SpO<sub>2</sub> when under anesthesia are respiratory depression due to the effects of anesthetic drugs, and hypoxia due to lack of oxygen in the blood. Administration of anesthetic drugs, especially hypnotic drugs can cause various events after anesthesia, Propofol is one of the drugs that can depress breathing (Arya et al., 2022).

## How to Cite:

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Based on research conducted (Prabowo et al., 2022) in 30 patients undergoing surgery using TIVA with a single Propofol, 23 patients (76.7%) experienced post-induction apnea using a dose of 2 mg/kg Propofol alone without a combination of other hypnotic drugs.

Propofol is an intravenous hypnotic that is frequently used to induce and maintain anesthesia (Sun et al., 2023). Its rapid onset and short duration of action make it the most widely used intravenous anesthetic drug in the past 30 years (Chiu et al., 2024). The main adverse effects of administering Propofol are related to cardiopulmonary physiology and include hypoventilation, loss of airway reflexes, and even apnea in high doses (Sahinovic et al., 2018). Propofol causes apnea by profoundly suppressing respiratory function at induction dosages (Yulia & Hadinata, 2022). Apnea may occur with an induction dose because propofol can induce respiratory depression (Ferrier et al., 2022).

Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic agent with diverse pharmacological effects ranging from induction and maintenance of anesthesia to analgesic and sedative depending on the dose administered (Roy et al., 2019). Ketamine can be used singly or in combination with other drugs to enhance its efficacy. This drug has several advantages compared to other anesthetic drugs. In addition to providing a hypnotic effect Ketamine also has an analgesic effect and produces a bronchodilatory status, this allows it to be used as an option in the anesthesia of patients with asthma who experience acute bronchial constriction (Zhou et al., 2023). Its good hemodynamic profile also makes it the drug of choice for patients with unstable hemodynamics, such as shock or hypotensive patients. Relatively intact airway reflexes and a decreased risk of respiratory depression have also been linked to its use for anesthesia (Pathak et al., 2023). In addition to raising blood pressure, heart rate, and cardiac output, ketamine also activates the sympathetic nervous system, which enhances oxygenation by boosting lung blood flow (Nobre et al., 2024). This suggests that the addition of ketamine with other anesthetic drugs can result in better preoxygenation in patients who have asthma and acute bronchial constriction during induction (Chowdhury & Chakraborty, 2020).

Based on research conducted (Tusharbhai et al., 2022) reported that 40 patients who will undergo surgical procedures with TIVA were divided into 2 groups equally, in group A given Propofol-Ketamine induction and group B given Propofol-Fentanyl induction. The  $\text{SpO}_2$  value before induction in group A was 98% and the value of group B was 99%. After the induction was performed, the  $\text{SpO}_2$  value of group A was 99% and group B was 100%. A comparison of  $\text{SpO}_2$  shows a higher value in group B both before induction

and after induction is performed (Tusharbhai et al., 2022). This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of ketamine and propofol collaboration during induction in preventing a decrease in oxygen saturation ( $\text{SpO}_2$ ) in patients with total intravenous anesthesia (TIVA).

## Method

This study was conducted from July 15 to August 9, 2024, carried out in the central surgical installation of Emanuel Banjarnegara Hospital, Central Java Province. The author chose this hospital as a research site because the author found several incidents of decreased  $\text{SpO}_2$  after induction using Single Propofol on TIVA during Clinical Practice 5. Preparations made include submitting a research permit from the Faculty of Health, Harapan Bangsa University, Then submit a letter requesting permission to carry out research to the Emanuel Banjarnegara Hospital. The next step is to take secondary data (operation and anesthesia sheets) from TIVA patients to obtain data on patient hemoglobin levels, age, last vital signs and take primary data directly related to patient vital signs including blood pressure,  $\text{SpO}_2$  patients when entering the operating room according to predetermined criteria, namely hemoglobin levels within normal limits of 12-16 grams / dL, Adult patients ranging in age from 18 to 60 years, the patient's blood pressure is within the normal range of 90/60mmHg to 140/90mmHg, and the  $\text{SpO}_2$  value at pretest is within the normal range of 95% to 100%

In the research procedure carried out includes taking data on patient characteristics, namely age and gender, then taking the main data of this study. Recording data  $\text{SpO}_2$  levels measured using a pulse oximeter before and after the induction of a combination of Ketamine and Propofol for induction in TIVA with a dose of Ketamine given is an analgesic dose of 0.1-0.6 mg / kg bw, and the dose of Propofol given is 1-2.5 / kg bw and  $\text{SpO}_2$  levels measured using a pulse oximeter before and after the induction of a single Propofol collaboration for induction in TIVA with a dose of Propofol given 1-2.5 / kg bw. Then the data is entered in Microsoft Excel, to be further analyzed with SPSS.

Fifty patients receiving TIVA-assisted surgery are split into two groups for this quasi-experimental study, which employs a quantitative method of experimental research. Patients with TIVA induced with a combination of propofol and ketamine made up the experimental group in this study, while patients with TIVA induced with propofol alone made up the control group. A pretest-posttest control group design is used in this study. According to this research design, a pretest is administered first, followed by a posttest after treatment has been administered. The study began on July 15 and

ended on August 3, 2024. With code B. LPPM-UHB/900/09/2024, this study has been approved by Harapan Bangsa University's Health Research Ethics Committee.

This research design uses a pretest-posttest control group design. That is, a research design that gives an initial test (pretest) before being given treatment, after being given treatment, then gives a final test (posttest). The research design is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The research design

Subject	Pre-test	Treatment	Post-test
K1	O1	X	O2
K2	O1'	X1	O2'

Description:

K1: Experimental group TIVA subjects/patients (induction using a collaboration of Ketamine and Propofol combination)

K2: Control group TIVA subjects/patients (induction using Propofol alone)

O1: SpO<sub>2</sub> assessment in the experimental group

O1': SpO<sub>2</sub> assessment in the control group

X: Treatment in the experimental group (induction using a collaboration of Ketamine and Propofol combination).

X1: Treatment in the control group (induction using a single Propofol collaboration).

O2: SpO<sub>2</sub> assessment of the experimental group

O2': SpO<sub>2</sub> assessment of the control group

## Result

Table 2 shows that some respondents before induction using a combination of Ketamine and Propofol collaboration obtained the highest SpO<sub>2</sub> value of 100% and the lowest was 96%. The average SpO<sub>2</sub> value at pretest was 98.28%. With a median value of 98.00%, a value that often appears 99%, and a Standard Dervirasirnya of 1.137. Respondents who experienced changes in SpO<sub>2</sub> after induction using a collaboration of Ketamine and Propofol combinations obtained the highest value of 100% and the lowest was 96%. The average SpO<sub>2</sub> value at the posttest was 98.28%. With a median value of 98.00%, a value that often appears 99%, and a Standard Dervirasirnya of 1.137.

**Table 2.** Distribution of SpO<sub>2</sub> Values of Respondents Results of Pre-Test and Post-Test of Experimental Group

Experimental Group	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Maximum Value	100.00	100.00
Minimum Score	96.00	96.00
Average (mean)	98.28	98.28
Meridian	98.00	98.00
Mode	99.00	99.00
Standard Deviation	1.137	1.137

Based on table 3 shows that some respondents before induction using single Propofol collaboration obtained the highest SpO<sub>2</sub> value of 100% and the lowest was 97%. The average SpO<sub>2</sub> value at pretest was 98.56%. With a mean value of 98.00%, a value that often appears as 98%, and a Standard Dervirasirnya 1.121. Responders who experienced changes in SpO<sub>2</sub> after induction using a single Propofol collaboration obtained the highest value of 94% and the lowest 80%. The average SpO<sub>2</sub> value at the posttest was 89.36%. With a median value of 91.00%, the value that often appears is 91% and the Standard Dervirasir is 4.040.

**Table 3.** Distribution of SpO<sub>2</sub> Values of Respondents Results of Pre-Test and Post-Test of Control Group

Control Group	Pre Test %	Post Test %
Maximum Value	100.00	94.00
Minimum Score	97.00	80.00
Average (mean)	98.56	89.36
Meridian	98.00	91.00
Mode	98.00	91.00
Standard Deviation	1.121	4.040

**Table 4.** Shapiro Wilk Normality Test Shapiro Wilk Test Calculation Results Pre-Test Post-Test Experimental Group and Control Group

Group	Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.
Pre_Experiments	0.910	25	0.031
Post_Experiments	0.910	25	0.031
Pre_Control	0.859	25	0.003
POST_Control	0.864	25	0.003

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

Based on table 4 demonstrates that the pre-test and post-test SpO<sub>2</sub> values of the experimental group acquire a pre-test significant value of  $0.031 < 0.05$  and post-test  $0.031 < 0.05$  it is demonstrated that the pre-test and post-test findings are not normally distributed. The pre-test and post-test findings were not normally distributed, as evidenced by the significant value of  $0.003 < 0.05$  for the control group's pre-test SpO<sub>2</sub> value and  $0.003 < 0.05$  for the post-test. The Wilcoxon Test will be used in the next test since the results of both are not normally distributed. To determine whether there was a difference between the experimental and control groups' pre-test and post-test SpO<sub>2</sub> values, the Wilcoxon test was used. The results of the calculation using the SPSS application obtained the results as follows.

**Table 5.** Wilcoxon Test to Find Out Differences Between Pair Data Wilcoxon Test Calculation Results Pre Test Post Test Experimental Group and Control Group

Variable	P value
Experimental	1.000
Control	0.000

Table 5 indicates that the experimental group's Post-Test  $\text{SpO}_2$  value did not change following administration of a combination of ketamine and propofol, with the Wilcoxon test yielding a sig. Value of 1.000  $<0.05$ .

**Table 6.** Respondent Homogeneity of Variance Test Homogeneity of Variance Test Results Experimental Group and Control Group

Grup	Levene Statistic	P value
Experimental	16.339	0.000
Control		

The following test is necessary because Table 6's sig. Value, which is based on the mean, is 0.000  $<0.05$ , indicating that the experimental group's and the control group's Post-Test  $\text{SpO}_2$  value data distribution is not homogeneous. The Mann-Whitney test will be used for this. The  $\text{SpO}_2$  Post-test values of the experimental group (Ketamine and Propofol) and the control group (Propofol alone) were subjected to the Mann-Whitney test; the findings are displayed in the Table 7.

**Table 7.** Mann-Whitney Test to Compare First 1 Minute  $\text{SpO}_2$  Value After Induction Of 2 Different Groups Mann Whitney Test Calculation Results Experimental Group and Control Group

Variable	P value
Experimental	0.000
Control	

Table 7 acquired sig. A value of 0.000  $<0.05$  indicates that patients who received a combination of Ketamine Propofol induction and those who had a single Propofol induction had different average  $\text{SpO}_2$  values following induction.

## Discussion

Based on Table 4 in this investigation, it was determined that there were no significant changes in  $\text{SpO}_2$  values before and after induction with the collaboration of a combination of Ketamine and Propofol in TIVA patients.

Sub-dissociative doses of ketamine also referred to as analgesic doses of 0.1–0.3 mg/kg, have been used extensively in conjunction with hypnotic medications during induction. It is most frequently used in conjunction with propofol as the primary hypnotic because analgesic doses of ketamine serve as a strong bronchodilator, maintaining the upper respiratory tract and comparatively more awake respiratory reflexes, which helps overcome obstacles (Nikolin et al., 2023). The effects Propofol which can cause respiratory depression characterized by decreased  $\text{SpO}_2$  values that usually occur after induction dosing, as well as replacing

the role of opioids because they have an effective analgesic effect, especially in the TIVA technique which minimizes the use of opioids to get faster anesthetic recovery and avoids the incidence of respiratory depression (Motov et al., 2018).

Based on research Ramdev et al. (2015) role Ketamine produces bronchodilation so it is widely used in combination with hypnotic drugs which can mostly cause respiratory depression, the role of Ketamine in maintaining respiratory reflexes is very effective and is widely combined with Propofol to overcome the main side effects of giving induction doses of Propofol which can cause loss of respiratory reflexes (Rolfzen et al., 2024). The main purpose of the combination of anesthetic drugs is to overcome the effects of each drug and produce balanced anesthesia, especially in the TIVA technique which is expected to accelerate anesthetic recovery and minimize respiratory depression (Padhi et al., 2022).

This study is in line with Tusharbhai et al. (2022) who reported that the combination of Ketamine and Propofol can prevent a decrease in  $\text{SpO}_2$  after induction because it was found that the  $\text{SpO}_2$  value after induction with a combination of Ketamine Propofol did not decrease and could maintain a better  $\text{SpO}_2$  value as long as the patient was under the influence of anesthesia (Abdildin et al., 2024). These findings are consistent with a study by Shirisha et al. (2024) that found that patients having surgery with the TIVA approach with induction using a mix of propofol and ketamine (Bakan et al., 2014).

Table 4 shows that  $\text{SpO}_2$  levels in TIVA patients significantly change before and after induction with a single Propofol injection. These findings are consistent with Prabowo et al. (2022) research, which found that a single 1–2.5 mg/kg Propofol induction dose lowers  $\text{SpO}_2$  values within the first minute following induction. This is because the patient's tidal volume decreases, which lowers minute volume and respiratory rate. Furthermore, the ventilatory response to hypoxia and hypercapnia can be suppressed by the concentration of propofol (Suneetha et al., 2023).

Propofol can cause respiratory depression, so apnea can be found after the administration of an induction dose of Propofol (Hashimoto et al., 2024). At subanesthetic doses for conscious sedation, Propofol can inhibit hypoxic ventilatory drive and suppress the respiratory response to hypercarbia (Molina et al., 2015). Propofol causes more airway reflex depression than Thiopental (Jansen et al., 2024). Propofol has a rapid onset, less than 30 seconds so the incidence of respiratory depression can be found in the first 1 minute after induction is carried out, this can cause a decrease in the patient's tidal volume and a decrease in minute volume and respiratory rate so that the incidence of

decreased  $\text{SpO}_2$  values can occur after induction is carried out (Bajwa et al., 2010; Prabowo et al., 2022).

Based on Jansen et al. (2024); Yesua et al. (2019) the incidence of drunkenness in post-anesthetic recovery using a single Propofol is milder when compared to Thiopental or Ketamine, but Propofol can cause respiratory depression which is often found apnea after induction dosing (Lii et al., 2023). So a combination of anesthetic drugs is needed to reduce the side effects of each drug and also to achieve balanced anesthesia.

Based on Table 6, it can be said that there is a substantial difference in  $\text{SpO}_2$  values between the experiment group (a collaboration of Ketamine and Propofol combinations) and the control group (single Propofol collaboration) (Denomme & Heifets, 2024). Therefore, it can be said that in patients with TIVA, the combination of ketamine and propofol is more effective for induction as a preventive measure against decreasing  $\text{SpO}_2$  than the use of propofol alone (Linassi et al., 2024).

Based on the aforementioned research findings, it can be said that a combination of ketamine and propofol used both before and after induction effectively prevents a drop in  $\text{SpO}_2$  during the first minute following induction. The primary adverse effects of administering a single induction dosage of propofol can be mitigated by administering a 0.1–0.3 mg/kg dose of ketamine analgesic, which acts to promote bronchodilation and maintain respiratory reflexes. The primary goal of combining anesthetic medications is to counteract their respective effects and create balanced anesthesia, particularly when using the TIVA technique, which is anticipated to hasten anesthetic recovery and reduce respiratory depression (Motov et al., 2018). The obvious side effect of Propofol can cause respiratory depression so apnea can be found after giving an induction dose of Propofol. At subanesthetic doses for conscious sedation, Propofol can inhibit hypoxic ventilatory drive and suppress the respiratory response to hypercarbia (Landoni et al., 2019). Propofol causes more airway reflex depression than Thiopental. Propofol can cause respiratory depression which is often found in apnea after induction dosing. So a combination of anesthetic drugs is needed to reduce the side effects of each drug and also to achieve balanced anesthesia (Morgan, 2022).

The findings of this study are consistent with those of Tusharbhai et al. (2022) who demonstrated that induction with a mixture of propofol and ketamine was effective in halting a drop in  $\text{SpO}_2$  following induction. This conclusion is consistent with the findings of Shirisha et al. (2024), which also showed that the combination group of ketamine and propofol was more successful than the propofol and fentanyl group in preventing a drop in air  $\text{SpO}_2$  following induction. This

investigation supports the conclusion that in patients with TIVA, the combination of ketamine and propofol is more beneficial for the induction and prevention of  $\text{SpO}_2$  decrease than the use of only propofol (Sahinovic et al., 2018).

All things considered, it may be said that the combination of ketamine and propofol works better than either drug alone to keep  $\text{SpO}_2$  from dropping as soon as induction is complete (Yang et al., 2024). The combination of ketamine and propofol during induction was very successful in preventing the reduction of  $\text{SpO}_2$ , according to the effectiveness that was interpreted in the non-inferior  $\text{SpO}_2$  group (Sodickson & Urman, 2015). Based on the aforementioned findings, hierpotersa H3 – which states that ketamine and propofol work better together to induce and prevent  $\text{SpO}_2$  drop in patients with TIVA than propofol alone – is acknowledged (Han et al., 2025).

## Conclusion

This investigation finds that patients receiving Ketamine + Propofol had a different average  $\text{SpO}_2$  value than those receiving Propofol alone. This means that the administration of Ketamine and Propofol in the experimental group is significantly more effective in preventing a decrease in  $\text{SpO}_2$  value in the first 1 minute after induction compared to the control group given a single Propofol.  $\text{SpO}_2$  values showed that in the experimental group (Ketamine and Propofol), there was no significant decrease in the mean  $\text{SpO}_2$  value from 98.96% before intervention to 98.28 after intervention. Meanwhile, in the control group (Propofol alone), the mean  $\text{SpO}_2$  value decreased from 98.56% to 89.44%. The larger decrease in the control group demonstrates that ketamine and propofol working together during induction is more effective than propofol by itself at preventing a drop in  $\text{SpO}_2$  in TIVA patients. The combined administration of Ketamine and Propofol is effective in preventing a decrease in  $\text{SpO}_2$  1 minute after induction of anesthesia, as evidenced by the control group's average decrease in  $\text{SpO}_2$  of 89.44% while the experimental group's average decrease in  $\text{SpO}_2$  was smaller than the control group's average.

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## Author Contributions

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### Conflicts of Interests

The author's interest in publishing this article is for the purpose of research output in the form of publication in a scientific journal as evidence of required performance. There is no conflict of interest.

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