

VENTILATORY MANAGEMENT OF NEONATES WITH RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME UNDERGOING DIVERSION COLOSTOMY

Noyal Jamshaid¹, Mukhtiar Ahmad², Rubama Javed³, Dr. Adeel Younis⁴,
Muhammad Rauf⁵, Wajid Ali⁶, Mirza Shahab⁷

^{*1,2,3,5,6,7}Department of Emerging Allied Health Technologies, FAHS, Superior University, Lahore

⁴Senior Registrar Anesthesia Department Fatima Memorial Hospital (FMH), Lahore

¹bsat-f21-088@superior.edu.pk, ²pk412999@gmail.com, ³rubamajaved14@gmail.com,
⁴dradeel25@gmail.com, ⁵bsat-s22-076@superior.edu.pk, ⁶bsat-f21-247@superior.edu.pk,
⁷bsat-f21-257@superior.edu.pk

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Corresponding Author: *

Noyal Jamshaid

Abstract

Background: Patient safety in neonatal surgery depends on precise ventilatory management, particularly in neonates diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) undergoing diversion colostomy. These infants present with underdeveloped lungs, low surfactant levels, and fragile respiratory physiology, making them extremely vulnerable during surgical procedures. Effective infection control, anesthesia selection, and postoperative respiratory strategies such as CPAP, conventional ventilation, and high-frequency ventilation are crucial to reducing mortality and preventing complications including pneumonia, sepsis, pulmonary edema, and prolonged ventilation.

Methods : A quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional methodology was employed to assess ventilatory management practices among neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy. Data from one hundred neonates were collected through a structured proforma documenting demographic variables, preoperative respiratory condition, intraoperative parameters, and postoperative ventilatory requirements. Non-parametric tests, such as the Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-Wallis test, were applied to detect variations in ventilatory duration and stability across different groups. A p-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results : Most neonates underwent surgery within the first week of life, and more than half were male. Moderate prematurity (28–32 weeks) and low birth weight were common. RDS diagnosis was most frequently supported by both clinical assessment and chest X-ray, and a majority of neonates received preoperative surfactant therapy. CPAP emerged as the most common initial respiratory support, followed by conventional ventilation. General anesthesia dominated surgical practice, and most procedures lasted between 30–60 minutes. Postoperatively, a large proportion (68%) required mechanical ventilation, particularly for 24–72 hours. Hospital stay commonly ranged between 7–14 days, and the survival rate was high at 88%.

Conclusion : This study concludes that ventilatory management is a critical determinant of postoperative outcomes in neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome undergoing diversion colostomy. The majority of neonates required postoperative ventilation, highlighting the need for structured respiratory support pathways. CPAP and conventional ventilation were the primary modes contributing to stabilization, especially in premature and low-birth-

weight infants, while high-frequency ventilation was reserved for more complex cases. The high survival rate reflects the positive impact of timely diagnosis, surfactant administration, appropriate choice of ventilation, and careful intraoperative monitoring. Significant associations between ventilatory types, surgery duration, and postoperative complications underscore the importance of customized ventilatory strategies.

Recommendations :Based on study findings, several important recommendations are proposed. Early surfactant therapy must continue to be prioritized to reduce respiratory compromise. Continuous postoperative monitoring through saturation, ventilator adjustments, and regular respiratory assessments is essential to prevent avoidable complications. Future research should focus on long-term respiratory outcomes, cost-effective ventilatory strategies, and predictive factors associated with prolonged ventilation in neonates with RDS.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) represent a uniquely fragile group in neonatal intensive care. Surfactant deficiency, immature alveolar development and unstable lung mechanics combine to produce profound hypoxaemia and respiratory failure. RDS, primarily caused by pulmonary surfactant deficiency and structural immaturity of the lungs, leads to alveolar collapse, hypoxemia, and respiratory failure within hours of birth. The condition is particularly common in preterm infants, although term neonates with congenital anomalies or perinatal asphyxia may also be affected. Early and carefully titrated ventilatory support is essential to reduce mortality and prevent chronic lung disease. When these infants require abdominal surgery such as a diversion colostomy, their respiratory management becomes even more complex because surgical stress, anaesthesia, and changes in intra-abdominal pressure further compromise ventilation. A multidisciplinary approach involving neonatology, anaesthesia and surgery is therefore critical to optimize peri-operative outcomes (1).

Preoperative evaluation begins with assessing gestational age, birth weight, and the current severity of RDS, often determined by oxygen requirements and blood-gas values. Comorbidities such as patent ductus arteriosus or pulmonary hypertension can significantly alter peri-operative stability. Nutrition, infection, and fluid status must also be optimized before surgery. The anaesthetic plan should anticipate potential difficulties in maintaining adequate ventilation once the

abdomen is opened. Surfactant replacement and stabilization on appropriate ventilatory settings prior to surgery are important to reduce postoperative complications. Effective pre-operative planning and communication among care teams form the foundation of successful respiratory outcomes in surgical neonates (2).

Intra-operative ventilation must respect the extreme vulnerability of neonatal lungs. Low-pressure, low-volume strategies minimize the risk of volutrauma and barotrauma, while maintaining sufficient functional residual capacity. Volume-targeted or synchronised modes are preferred to avoid excessive fluctuations in delivered tidal volume. Anaesthetic agents influence respiratory drive, and their effects should be continuously monitored. Because increased intra-abdominal pressure during colostomy reduces diaphragmatic excursion, ventilatory adjustments must be made dynamically. Continuous end-tidal CO₂ monitoring and intermittent blood-gas analysis guide intra-operative management. Close coordination between surgeon and anaesthetist ensures that ventilation and perfusion remain stable throughout the procedure (3).

Post-operatively, ventilatory management focuses on maintaining adequate gas exchange while avoiding lung injury. Sedation, pain, and abdominal distension can all depress respiratory effort and impair compliance. Early application of lung-protective strategies, including minimal FiO₂ and optimal positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), is vital. Extubation should occur as soon as the infant demonstrates stable

gas exchange and adequate respiratory drive. Non-invasive ventilation such as continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or nasal intermittent positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) can support the transition to spontaneous breathing. Continuous monitoring for pneumothorax, atelectasis, and ventilator-associated pneumonia is necessary during recovery (4).

Lung-protective ventilation remains the cornerstone of RDS care in both medical and surgical contexts. Evidence supports using small tidal volumes, careful PEEP titration, and avoidance of high inspiratory pressures. Volume-targeted ventilation offers consistent tidal delivery and reduces the incidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia. Recruitment manoeuvres, if used, should be gentle and individualized to avoid compromising surgical repairs or increasing intra-abdominal pressure. Adjusting ventilator parameters according to lung compliance and blood-gas results is preferable to fixed protocols. Regular bedside review and staff education on lung-protective principles are essential to prevent ventilator-induced lung injury (5).

Surfactant replacement therapy continues to be a mainstay in the management of neonatal RDS and should be incorporated into peri-operative planning. Early administration improves compliance and oxygenation, often reducing ventilator dependency. Less-invasive surfactant administration techniques may further limit the need for intubation. In surgical neonates, the timing of surfactant relative to anaesthesia must be individualized to avoid intra-operative instability. After surfactant delivery, rapid improvement in lung compliance necessitates downward adjustment of ventilator pressures and FiO_2 to prevent over-distension. Protocolized integration of surfactant therapy into the surgical pathway has been shown to improve both respiratory and survival outcomes.

Evidence suggests that combining surfactant therapy with synchronized ventilation improves alveolar recruitment and reduces volutrauma. The use of targeted oxygen saturation monitoring also plays a critical role in preventing oxygen toxicity following surfactant administration. In peri-operative settings, careful coordination between neonatologists,

anesthetists, and surgical teams ensures stable gas exchange throughout the procedure. Continued monitoring for surfactant inactivation, especially in cases with infection or inflammation, is essential to maintain optimal respiratory function.(6).

High-frequency ventilation (HFV) serves as a valuable rescue strategy in neonates with severe or refractory RDS. By providing very small tidal volumes at high frequencies, HFV minimizes barotrauma and maintains lung recruitment. However, its use during or after abdominal surgery requires experienced staff and careful monitoring of carbon-dioxide clearance. Hemodynamic instability may occur if mean airway pressures are excessive. Therefore, HFV should be employed under strict indications with defined entry and exit criteria. Although evidence regarding long-term benefit remains mixed, HFV can be lifesaving in selected cases where conventional ventilation fails to achieve adequate oxygenation (7).

Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) has revolutionized neonatal respiratory care by reducing the need for prolonged intubation. Continuous positive airway pressure remains the first-line approach in spontaneously breathing infants, while NIPPV can decrease extubation failure rates. Following colostomy, NIV should be applied judiciously, balancing its benefits against risks of abdominal distension or anastomotic stress. Proper mask fit, leak management, and monitoring are essential for effectiveness. When used within clear protocols, NIV promotes earlier weaning, reduces ventilator-associated complications, and enhances postoperative recovery in neonates with RDS.

Study also supports the use of synchronized NIPPV, which improves tidal volume delivery and reduces work of breathing. Careful adjustment of pressure settings is crucial to avoid excessive gastric insufflation, particularly in postoperative abdominal cases. Close collaboration between surgical, anesthesia, and NICU teams ensures safe transitions between ventilation modes. NIV, when initiated early, helps maintain functional residual capacity and prevents alveolar collapse. Overall, structured NIV strategies contribute significantly to improved respiratory stability and shorter hospital stays in neonates undergoing

colostomy for RDS. (8).

Weaning from mechanical ventilation in surgical neonates with RDS requires a structured and individualized approach. Readiness assessment includes stable gas exchange, adequate spontaneous effort, and minimal oxygen and pressure requirements. Spontaneous breathing trials help evaluate tolerance before extubation. Once extubated, support with CPAP or NIPPV can prevent re-intubation. Factors such as sepsis, poor nutrition, or residual sedation may prolong weaning. Close daily evaluation and collaboration between neonatologists, respiratory therapists, and surgeons ensure timely yet safe discontinuation of mechanical support. In addition, lung-protective strategies during the weaning period such as maintaining low tidal volumes and avoiding excessive PEEP help prevent ventilator-induced lung injury. Careful monitoring for post-extubation apnea or respiratory fatigue is essential, especially in neonates who have undergone abdominal surgery, where pain or abdominal distension may compromise breathing mechanics. Early physiotherapy, optimized fluid balance, and adequate thermal regulation also play important roles in supporting respiratory stability. Protocol-based weaning pathways have been shown to shorten ventilation duration, decrease complications, and improve overall recovery outcomes in neonates with RDS following colostomy. (9).

Abdominal surgery introduces physiological challenges that directly affect ventilation. The presence of a stoma, postoperative edema, and pain may limit diaphragmatic movement and reduce lung compliance. Effective analgesia is therefore critical for maintaining adequate ventilation and facilitating early weaning. Gentle chest physiotherapy and frequent repositioning help prevent atelectasis. Coordination between surgical and neonatal teams regarding wound care and ventilatory adjustments is essential to avoid complications. Comprehensive documentation of intra-operative and postoperative respiratory parameters supports quality improvement and future guideline development.

Abdominal distension after surgery can further compromise respiratory mechanics, making careful fluid management and gastric

decompression vital for maintaining adequate ventilation. Early identification of respiratory deterioration through continuous monitoring allows timely escalation of support, reducing the risk of hypoxemia or extubation failure. Maintaining optimal thermal regulation and minimizing handling stress are additional factors that help stabilize breathing patterns in fragile neonates. Evidence suggests that integrating standardized postoperative respiratory care pathways improves outcomes by reducing pulmonary complications and shortening recovery time in neonates undergoing colostomy. (10).

Preventing ventilator-associated complications remains a major goal of neonatal intensive care. Pneumothorax, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and ventilator-associated pneumonia are significant contributors to morbidity. Strict infection-control practices, minimal sedation, and regular assessment of ventilator settings can mitigate these risks. Oral and endotracheal hygiene protocols reduce microbial colonization. Tracking ventilator days, compliance with lung-protective strategies, and extubation success rates are effective quality indicators. Continuous staff education reinforces adherence to evidence-based bundles and improves safety in ventilatory management. Additionally, early recognition of subtle clinical changes—such as rising oxygen requirements or increasing work of breathing—helps prevent progression to severe complications. Preventive strategies like optimizing humidification, ensuring appropriate endotracheal tube positioning, and minimizing unnecessary ventilator alarms contribute to a more stable respiratory environment. Integrating multidisciplinary rounds promotes coordinated decision-making, reducing variability in care practices. Evidence also supports the use of standardized ventilator-care bundles, which significantly decrease infection rates and improve overall outcomes in ventilated neonates. (11).

In resource-limited settings, sophisticated ventilators or surfactant therapy may not always be available, but outcomes can still improve through protocol-driven care. Bubble CPAP and simple time-cycled ventilators can effectively support neonates when used correctly. Emphasis on thermal stability, oxygen

blending, and infection prevention is equally important. Training, simulation, and telemedicine initiatives can enhance local expertise. Even basic documentation of respiratory parameters enables ongoing audit and improvement. Establishing practical guidelines tailored to available resources ensures equitable and safe ventilatory care for surgical neonates worldwide. Furthermore, strengthening supply-chain systems to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential consumables—such as oxygen tubing, nasal prongs, and monitoring equipment—greatly enhances care continuity. Community-based referral networks and early recognition of respiratory distress at peripheral centers can significantly reduce pre-operative deterioration. Incorporating low-cost innovations, including improvised CPAP systems and solar-powered oxygen concentrators, can provide life-saving support where electricity or equipment is unreliable. Collaboration with global neonatal networks enables capacity building and facilitates the adoption of context-appropriate best practices. Ultimately, optimizing basic yet essential ventilatory strategies can yield substantial survival benefits even in severely constrained environments. (12).

Family-centred care and long-term follow-up are integral components of comprehensive neonatal management. Parents must be guided throughout the course of ventilatory support, informed about potential complications, and prepared for the expected recovery trajectory to reduce anxiety and strengthen shared decision-making. After discharge, continuous monitoring for chronic respiratory concerns—such as bronchopulmonary dysplasia, recurrent wheezing, or growth impairment—is essential to identify complications early and initiate timely interventions. Multidisciplinary outpatient follow-up involving pulmonologists, surgeons, neonatologists, and developmental specialists ensures holistic recovery and supports optimal neurodevelopmental outcomes. The study emphasized that preventing ventilator-related complications relies not only on advanced technology but also on meticulous clinical vigilance, coordinated interdisciplinary care, and institutional adherence to safety and infection-control standards. Together, these elements significantly enhance survival and

long-term respiratory outcomes in neonates requiring postoperative ventilatory support. Systematic data collection from these patients contributes to ongoing research, strengthens evidence-based protocols, and supports the refinement of clinical guidelines. Integrating surgical and respiratory follow-up has been shown to improve long-term outcomes and family satisfaction, reinforcing the importance of a unified care pathway for this vulnerable population (13).

1.2 Rationale of Study

Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in preterm and critically ill infants, often necessitating prolonged ventilatory support. When these neonates require surgical interventions such as diversion colostomy for gastrointestinal anomalies, the complexity of their management increases substantially. Surgical stress, anesthesia, and altered intra-abdominal dynamics can exacerbate existing respiratory compromise, making ventilatory control a decisive factor in survival and recovery. Despite significant advances in neonatal ventilation and surfactant therapy, there is limited evidence addressing optimal ventilatory strategies specifically tailored for surgical neonates with RDS.

Current clinical protocols are largely extrapolated from nonsurgical populations, which may not account for the unique pathophysiological challenges associated with abdominal procedures. Moreover, postoperative complications such as atelectasis, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and prolonged oxygen dependency remain major clinical concerns. Understanding the interplay between respiratory mechanics and surgical physiology is essential for optimizing outcomes and reducing ventilation-related morbidity. This study is therefore justified by the urgent need to evaluate and establish evidence-based ventilatory management practices that are safe, effective, and adaptable to the perioperative care of neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy. The findings are expected to guide clinical protocols, support multidisciplinary coordination, and ultimately improve survival and long-term pulmonary outcomes in this vulnerable population.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Yadav (2015) explained that Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) continues to be the leading cause of neonatal respiratory morbidity due to surfactant deficiency and immature lung development. The study emphasized that mechanical ventilation remains essential for neonates with severe RDS, yet improper settings can exacerbate lung injury. Yadav highlighted that neonatal lungs are more prone to volutrauma and atelectrauma because of high surface tension forces in surfactant-deficient alveoli. The author also discussed the balance between oxygenation and carbon dioxide removal, advocating for volume-targeted ventilation modes. Yadav further demonstrated that neonatal RDS management must incorporate thermal stability, minimal handling, and timely surfactant therapy. Early continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) significantly reduced the need for invasive ventilation. The study also warned that prolonged intubation leads to ventilator-associated complications. Proper assessment before surgical intervention, including for diversion colostomy, minimizes risk. Finally, Yadav concluded that integrating surgical and respiratory care pathways enhances neonatal survival outcomes (1).

Chakkarapani et al. (2016) reviewed the evolving principles of mechanical ventilation in neonatal care and discussed how technological advances have changed practice. The authors emphasized that synchronised and volume-targeted ventilation should be preferred over pressure-limited modes to minimize lung injury. Their findings suggested that using smaller tidal volumes (4–6 mL/kg) with adequate positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) reduces the incidence of bronchopulmonary dysplasia. They observed that neonates undergoing abdominal procedures such as colostomy face additional ventilatory challenges due to altered diaphragmatic mechanics. Preoperative optimization and intraoperative vigilance were stressed to prevent hypoventilation. They concluded that individualized ventilation strategies should be guided by continuous monitoring of compliance and gas exchange. Chakkarapani and colleagues also noted the importance of bedside lung ultrasound for

assessing ventilation-perfusion mismatch. They called for multidisciplinary teamwork for surgical neonates with RDS to reduce ventilator days and mortality (2).

Klingenberg et al. (2017) investigated the outcomes of noninvasive ventilation (NIV) in neonates with moderate RDS and its perioperative applications. Their study found that early initiation of nasal CPAP or nasal intermittent positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) prevented intubation in a significant number of preterm neonates. The authors concluded that NIV is a valuable strategy for stabilizing infants before surgery, reducing invasive ventilation exposure. They cautioned that careful monitoring is required when using NIV postoperatively due to risks of gastric distension and compromise of abdominal wounds. The study also emphasized the training of staff in using noninvasive devices effectively. Klingenberg's findings reinforced the importance of noninvasive modalities as a bridge between mechanical ventilation and spontaneous breathing recovery. They also highlighted the role of gradual weaning protocols in reducing ventilator-associated pneumonia. The authors recommended incorporating NIV into standard perioperative care protocols for RDS (3).

Van Kaam (2018) evaluated lung-protective ventilation in neonatal RDS and its adaptation during surgical procedures. The study emphasized that "open lung" strategies should aim to maintain functional residual capacity while avoiding over-distension. According to van Kaam, careful titration of PEEP and tidal volume remains critical for minimizing ventilator-induced lung injury. He further discussed that abdominal surgeries, such as colostomies, alter respiratory dynamics, demanding ventilatory adjustment. His review noted that patient-ventilator synchrony enhances oxygenation and reduces energy expenditure in neonates. Van Kaam also highlighted that integrating real-time respiratory monitoring systems can optimize settings. The study concluded that standardizing lung-protective principles across neonatal surgical units can significantly lower morbidity and improve postoperative outcomes. These recommendations have been widely adopted in European neonatal intensive care units (4).

Sweet et al. (2019) provided European consensus guidelines on RDS management, emphasizing evidence-based ventilatory practices. The guidelines recommended early use of CPAP for spontaneously breathing neonates and early selective surfactant therapy when required. Sweet and colleagues stated that surgical neonates, especially those undergoing abdominal procedures, require individualized respiratory planning to mitigate intraoperative risks. The consensus outlined the use of minimal invasive surfactant administration (LISA) as a preferred method to avoid mechanical ventilation when possible. The guidelines further advised gentle ventilation with low driving pressures and early extubation strategies. Sweet et al. also included recommendations for integrating multidisciplinary care teams for perioperative respiratory management. They concluded that adherence to standardized ventilatory guidelines correlates with reduced mortality and better neurodevelopmental outcomes (5).

Ramaswamy and Bhatia (2020) explored advances in noninvasive respiratory support, including high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC), CPAP, and NIPPV in neonates with RDS. Their review found that these techniques significantly decreased intubation rates and duration of mechanical ventilation. They argued that postoperative application of HFNC in stable neonates after colostomy can aid in early recovery. The study underlined that patient selection and continuous monitoring are crucial to ensure safety. They also discussed the physiological basis for the beneficial effects of NIV in maintaining functional residual capacity. The authors noted that staff training and standardized protocols improve NIV outcomes. They concluded that noninvasive support, combined with early surfactant therapy, represents the cornerstone of neonatal respiratory care in both medical and surgical patients (6).

Halim et al. (2021) investigated less invasive surfactant administration (LISA) methods in neonates with RDS and how these interact with perioperative ventilation strategies. Their study showed that early surfactant therapy, even in surgical neonates, improves lung compliance and decreases oxygen requirements. Halim and colleagues found that when surfactant is

administered via thin catheter techniques, the need for mechanical ventilation is significantly reduced. The authors emphasized the safety of LISA even in neonates who may later undergo abdominal surgery. They also recommended timely reassessment of ventilator settings after surfactant therapy to avoid overdistension. Their findings contributed to updated neonatal respiratory guidelines recommending LISA for most eligible infants. Overall, this approach aligns with the global shift toward noninvasive and lung-protective ventilation (7).

Ackermann et al. (2022) focused on the role of high-frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) in preterm neonates with severe RDS who fail conventional ventilation. Their prospective analysis demonstrated that HFOV improves oxygenation indices while minimizing lung injury when applied early and appropriately. They reported that in surgical neonates, HFOV can maintain adequate gas exchange even during abdominal interventions, provided that intra-abdominal pressures are monitored. Ackermann highlighted that HFOV requires expertise and precise monitoring of mean airway pressure to prevent hemodynamic compromise. The authors noted that despite its technical complexity, HFOV remains a valuable option in tertiary care settings. Their research concluded that integrating HFOV into perioperative care pathways improves outcomes in complex neonatal cases with refractory respiratory failure (8).

Resch (2016) examined determinants of prolonged postoperative ventilation in neonates undergoing intestinal surgery and highlighted that pre-existing respiratory distress syndrome is a strong predictor of delayed weaning. His prospective analysis showed that neonates requiring diversion colostomy had increased ventilatory demands because of abdominal splinting and postoperative pain. Resch discussed that adequate analgesia, gentle ventilation, and early extubation protocols were key to better outcomes. The study also found that high mean airway pressures correlated with longer ventilator dependence. It recommended routine use of lung compliance monitoring for real-time adjustments. Resch underlined that multidisciplinary coordination between surgeons, anaesthetists, and neonatologists reduces ventilator-associated morbidity. He

suggested that minimizing intra-operative fluid overload and maintaining thermal stability further enhance postoperative recovery. The research contributed to awareness that postoperative respiratory management should be individualized based on intra-operative events and pre-existing lung pathology. His work remains a foundation for peri-operative ventilatory strategies in neonatal surgical units (9).

Chen et al. (2017) conducted an extensive review of neonatal respiratory management innovations and their integration into surgical care. Their findings indicated that combining real-time lung ultrasonography with blood-gas analysis improved decision-making in ventilator adjustments. Chen emphasized that advances in ventilator technology, such as proportional assist ventilation and neurally adjusted ventilatory assist, enable synchronization with neonatal breathing patterns. They discussed the benefits of such modes in reducing oxygen exposure and promoting faster recovery. The review also analyzed peri-operative case studies showing that gentle ventilation paired with early surfactant therapy significantly lowered mortality. Chen's team highlighted that continuous professional training ensures better ventilator handling in complex surgical scenarios. They concluded that integrating emerging technologies with established clinical protocols enhances precision in neonatal respiratory management. Their recommendations form the basis of several current neonatal care guidelines adopted worldwide (10).

Goerens et al. (2018) conducted a comprehensive multicentre investigation on ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) in neonatal intensive care units and highlighted the critical importance of stringent infection-control measures during prolonged mechanical ventilation. Their findings demonstrated that neonates undergoing abdominal surgery were particularly vulnerable to VAP due to extended intubation periods, compromised immunity, and increased exposure to broad-spectrum antibiotics. Goerens and colleagues advocated the implementation of structured ventilator bundles that incorporated evidence-based interventions such as strict oral hygiene, maintenance of head elevation, closed suction

systems, and early initiation of weaning strategies. These bundles resulted in a significant reduction in VAP incidence, lowering infection rates by more than 30%. The study further emphasized that the use of heat-moisture exchangers and standardized suction protocols could substantially reduce microbial contamination within ventilatory circuits. Overall, their research concluded that infection prevention measures are equally as important as ventilator management in improving neonatal survival outcomes. The findings continue to guide contemporary VAP-prevention protocols and reinforce the necessity for regular audits and adherence to ventilator safety practices across neonatal units worldwide (11).

Himmelstein (2019) presented a detailed analysis of high-frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) in critically ill neonates. He reported that HFOV provided superior oxygenation stability compared with conventional modes, particularly in cases complicated by abdominal interventions. The study demonstrated that maintaining moderate mean airway pressures while avoiding excessive oscillatory amplitude improved hemodynamic tolerance. Himmelstein underscored the importance of continuous monitoring of chest wall vibrations and arterial gases. His findings revealed that HFOV, when applied by experienced personnel, substantially decreased barotrauma incidence. He also discussed that combining HFOV with surfactant therapy achieved earlier lung recruitment.

Furthermore, Himmelstein noted that HFOV offered a protective advantage for neonates with fragile lungs by reducing volutrauma and cyclic alveolar collapse, which are common challenges in postoperative RDS. He emphasized the need for individualized ventilator parameter adjustments based on dynamic lung compliance rather than fixed protocols. The study also highlighted that early transition to HFOV in deteriorating infants improved oxygenation indices more rapidly than escalation of conventional ventilation. Himmelstein recommended structured staff competency training to ensure optimal device handling and minimize complications. His work reinforced that integrating HFOV into peri-operative ventilation strategies supports better stabilization, shortens ventilator dependency,

and enhances overall recovery in neonates undergoing abdominal surgery. Collectively, his contribution provided a robust framework for incorporating advanced oscillatory ventilation modes into complex neonatal surgical care pathways (12).

Rangelova et al. (2020) analyzed neonatal outcomes after prolonged ventilation, focusing on neurodevelopmental and pulmonary sequelae. Their longitudinal cohort demonstrated that early adoption of lung-protective strategies mitigated long-term respiratory complications. They highlighted that infants who underwent surgical interventions, such as colostomy, required special consideration for follow-up due to cumulative stress from surgery and ventilation. Rangelova stressed the need for structured weaning protocols to prevent chronic lung disease. The study identified that parental education and involvement during hospitalization improved adherence to respiratory rehabilitation programs. It concluded that integrated multidisciplinary care during and after ventilation significantly enhances developmental outcomes. Their findings reinforced the necessity of aligning short-term ventilatory goals with long-term quality-of-life measures. This research became instrumental in shaping modern neonatal follow-up policies.

Additionally, Rangelova et al. emphasized that prolonged mechanical ventilation altered early brain maturation patterns, making routine neurodevelopmental screening essential for high-risk infants. The study found that coordinated physiotherapy, optimized nutrition, and early intervention services significantly reduced delays in cognitive and motor milestones. They further recommended that neonates recovering from surgical procedures should undergo periodic pulmonary function assessments through infancy and early childhood to monitor evolving airway and lung growth issues. The authors also observed that socioeconomic support, including counseling and post-discharge guidance, played a critical role in maintaining treatment continuity. Their evidence suggested that integrating standardized ventilation protocols with family-centered care models promotes sustained respiratory stability and improved long-term developmental

trajectories. Overall, the research became instrumental in shaping modern neonatal follow-up policies by connecting acute respiratory management with lifelong health planning (13).

Patel et al. (2023) investigated peri-operative respiratory optimization protocols for neonates with RDS undergoing major abdominal surgery. Their randomized controlled trial compared conventional ventilation with a protocol incorporating permissive hypercapnia and early extubation. The results demonstrated improved survival and shorter NICU stays in the protocol group. Patel noted that maintaining moderate PaCO₂ levels minimized lung injury while preserving cerebral perfusion. The authors emphasized precise control of fluid balance and temperature as adjuncts to respiratory management. They concluded that adopting evidence-based ventilatory strategies, including permissive hypercapnia, can safely reduce ventilator duration. Their findings advocate for tailored peri-operative respiratory plans to reduce complications in surgical neonates. This work represents a major step toward individualized ventilation policies.

Furthermore, Patel et al. highlighted that early recognition of weaning readiness and structured extubation checklists were crucial to minimize post-extubation respiratory failure. The study demonstrated that combining permissive hypercapnia with careful monitoring of oxygen saturation and hemodynamics improved both pulmonary and neurological outcomes. They also observed that staff training on protocol adherence significantly reduced variability in ventilatory practices across multiple centers. The trial reinforced that individualized ventilatory management, when integrated with multidisciplinary peri-operative care, enhances overall recovery, reduces morbidity, and shortens hospital stay. Patel's research contributes to the growing evidence supporting protocolized, patient-specific ventilation strategies in complex neonatal surgical care (14). Li and Kumar (2025) explored emerging artificial-intelligence (AI) applications in neonatal ventilatory management. Their review showed that AI-driven algorithms can predict extubation readiness and optimize ventilator settings in real time. Li and Kumar discussed how machine-learning models analyze

respiratory parameters to maintain stable oxygenation and minimize human error. They highlighted early pilot programs integrating AI with conventional ventilators to guide clinicians during neonatal surgeries. The study observed that predictive analytics reduced incidences of hypoxemia and hyperventilation. The authors cautioned that data security and algorithm transparency remain ethical concerns. Nevertheless, their findings projected that AI will become an essential adjunct to neonatal intensive care within the next decade. They concluded that future research should focus on combining AI decision-support with clinician expertise to improve RDS outcomes. This represents the next frontier in precision neonatal ventilation (15).

3.1 OBJECTIVES

- To determine the relationship between perioperative ventilatory settings and postoperative respiratory complications such as atelectasis, pneumothorax, or bronchopulmonary dysplasia.
- To identify the role of early surfactant therapy and lung-protective ventilation in reducing ventilator dependence and improving recovery outcomes.
- To compare the duration of mechanical ventilation and NICU stay among neonates managed with different ventilatory protocols.

3.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) represent one of the most vulnerable groups in neonatal intensive care, often requiring immediate ventilatory support to sustain life. When these infants undergo surgical procedures such as diversion colostomy for congenital anomalies or intestinal pathologies, their respiratory management becomes significantly more challenging. The physiological stress of surgery, anesthesia, and altered abdominal pressures can worsen lung compliance and oxygenation. Despite advances in neonatal ventilation, there is currently no standardized protocol for ventilatory management tailored to surgical neonates with RDS. This gap contributes to higher rates of postoperative complications, including ventilator-associated pneumonia, atelectasis,

and prolonged hospital stays. In many healthcare settings, the lack of uniform guidelines and interdisciplinary coordination further exacerbates morbidity and mortality. Addressing this problem through research is essential to establish effective ventilatory strategies that enhance oxygenation, minimize complications, and improve survival outcomes for neonates requiring both respiratory and surgical interventions.

3.3 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Ventilatory Management:

Refers to the systematic application of mechanical or non-invasive ventilation techniques designed to maintain optimal gas exchange, minimize lung injury, and support respiratory function in neonates with RDS before, during, and after diversion colostomy.

Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS):

A neonatal respiratory condition primarily caused by surfactant deficiency leading to alveolar collapse, reduced lung compliance, hypoxemia, and increased work of breathing, commonly observed in preterm infants.

Diversion Colostomy:

A surgical procedure performed in neonates to divert fecal flow through an artificial opening (stoma) in the abdominal wall, often indicated in cases of anorectal malformations, necrotizing enterocolitis, or intestinal obstruction.

Lung-Protective Ventilation:

A strategy of mechanical ventilation that uses low tidal volumes, optimal positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), and controlled oxygen levels to prevent barotrauma, volutrauma, and atelectrauma in fragile neonatal lungs.

Perioperative Period:

Refers to the entire span of time surrounding surgery, including preoperative stabilization, intraoperative management, and postoperative care, during which ventilatory adjustments are critical for maintaining respiratory stability.

Surgical Site Infection (SSI):

An infection occurring at or near the surgical incision within 30 days of surgery, potentially influenced by prolonged ventilation, poor oxygenation, or inadequate aseptic technique in postoperative neonates.

Mechanical Ventilation Duration:

The total length of time, measured in hours or days, during which a neonate remains on invasive or non-invasive ventilatory support following diagnosis of RDS and surgical intervention.

4 MATERIAL AND METHODS**1.2.1 Study Design**

This study follows a **quantitative, comparative research design** aimed at analyzing the effectiveness of different ventilatory management strategies among neonates diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) who undergo diversion colostomy.

1.2.2 Settings

The investigation took place at operating room theatre staff, including surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and infection control personnel working in hospital operating rooms.

1.2.3 Study Duration

The research span was extend across 4 to 6 months as approved by the research synopsis.

1.2.4 Sample Size

The formula for calculating the sample size in a comparative study is:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times p(1 - p)}{E^2}$$

Where:

- $Z=1.96$ (95% confidence)
- $p=0.5$ (assumed proportion, gives maximum sample size)
- $E=0.1$ (10% margin of error)

Calculated Sample size = 100

1.2.5 Sampling Technique

A convenient non-probability sampling strategy will be utilized because this study is based on only those staff members had the direct experience in the implementation of environmental disinfection techniques.

1.2.6 Sample Selection**Inclusion Criteria**

- Neonates diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) confirmed clinically and radiographically.

- Neonates undergoing diversion colostomy for gastrointestinal or anorectal anomalies.
- Patients receiving mechanical or non-invasive ventilatory support preoperatively and postoperatively.
- Neonates admitted to the NICU within the study period.
- Parental or guardian consent obtained for participation in the research.

Exclusion Criteria

The study will exclude neonates and cases based on the following criteria:

- Neonates with major congenital heart disease or severe chromosomal abnormalities.
- Infants with severe sepsis or multi-organ failure prior to surgery.
- Patients who expired before postoperative ventilatory assessment could be completed.
- Neonates transferred to another facility before data collection was finalized.
- Guardians who decline consent for participation.

1.2.7 Equipment

The study will utilize standard **neonatal ventilatory support equipment** and monitoring systems available in the NICU and operating theatre. These include mechanical ventilators capable of both conventional and high-frequency oscillatory modes, pulse oximeters, arterial blood gas analyzers, capnographs, and patient monitoring systems for heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation. Additional equipment such as surfactant delivery systems, temperature control devices (radiant warmers and incubators), and pressure-controlled circuits will be employed to ensure precision in ventilatory management. Data recording tools, including electronic medical records and ventilator parameter logs, will be used for consistent and reliable data collection throughout the study period.

1.2.8 Scanning Technique

In this study, **scanning** refers to the systematic observation and recording of ventilatory parameters and clinical responses. Continuous monitoring of oxygen saturation, peak

inspiratory pressure, positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), tidal volume, and blood gas levels will be conducted throughout the perioperative period. Data will be scanned and extracted from NICU electronic monitoring systems and patient charts using a structured observation checklist developed for this study. Regular cross-verification will be done to ensure data accuracy and completeness. The scanning technique ensures real-time assessment of ventilatory adjustments and postoperative recovery trends in neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy.

1.3 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The study requires **strict ethical compliance** because it involves critically ill neonates who represent a highly vulnerable population and investigates clinical ventilatory management during and after surgical intervention. Throughout the research period, this study will strictly adhere to established ethical principles including **autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, confidentiality, and justice**, as guided by institutional ethical review boards and the Declaration of Helsinki.

- **Every potential participant** (neonate) will be included only after obtaining *written informed consent* from parents or legal guardians, ensuring that they fully understand the purpose, benefits, and minimal risks associated with participation.
- **Approval from the Institutional Ethical Review Committee (IERC)** will be obtained before initiation of the study, and the research will proceed only after official authorization.
- **Confidentiality of patient information** will be strictly maintained; all data will be coded, and no personal identifiers will be revealed in reports, presentations, or publications.
- **Non-maleficence** will be ensured by guaranteeing that no additional medical procedures or interventions outside of routine neonatal care will be performed solely for research purposes.
- **Beneficence** will be upheld by ensuring that participation in the study may contribute to improved ventilatory management protocols and better clinical outcomes for future neonates.

- **Voluntary participation** will be maintained; parents or guardians may withdraw their neonate from the study at any stage without affecting the quality of medical care provided.
- **Data storage and access** will be limited to authorized research personnel only, and records will be secured in password-protected files and locked cabinets.
- **Anonymity** of hospitals, healthcare professionals, and patients will be preserved to prevent any potential bias or breach of privacy.
- **Professional conduct** will be maintained by all members of the research team, ensuring respect for patient rights, staff roles, and institutional protocols.
- **Dissemination of findings** will be carried out responsibly, sharing results with healthcare professionals and academic bodies to enhance neonatal care practices.
- **Adherence to local legal and ethical regulations** regarding neonatal research will be ensured, particularly in terms of surgical and ventilatory interventions.

1.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

This section details how data were systematically collected to achieve the research objectives. The process involved identifying study variables, selecting appropriate data collection methods, developing a structured data collection proforma, measuring key clinical outcomes, and categorizing dependent and independent variables. Data collection focused on ventilatory parameters, clinical progress, and postoperative outcomes among neonates diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) undergoing diversion colostomy.

1.4.1 Identification of Study Variables

The study investigates the **effectiveness of different ventilatory management strategies** used in neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy. The primary aim is to evaluate which ventilatory techniques optimize oxygenation, reduce complications, and improve recovery outcomes.

● Independent Variables:

Type of ventilation (conventional mechanical ventilation, high-frequency oscillatory

ventilation, non-invasive ventilation), ventilatory settings (PEEP, FiO₂, tidal volume), duration of ventilation, and use of surfactant therapy.

● **Dependent Variables:**

Clinical improvement in blood oxygenation (PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio), reduction in carbon dioxide retention (PaCO₂ levels), incidence of postoperative respiratory complications (atelectasis, pneumothorax, bronchopulmonary dysplasia), duration of NICU stay, and survival outcomes.

1.4.2 Methods for Collection of Data

Data were collected using a **quantitative observational approach** involving direct patient monitoring and review of clinical records. A structured proforma was developed to record ventilatory parameters and perioperative outcomes. Convenience sampling was applied to include all eligible neonates admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) who underwent diversion colostomy during the study period. Data were collected prospectively over 4–6 months, with continuous observation of ventilator settings, blood gas analysis, and postoperative recovery. All data were obtained from bedside monitoring systems and verified through consultation with attending neonatologists and pediatric surgeons.

1.4.3 Data Collection Tools (Performa/Questionnaire)

The primary data collection tool was a **structured clinical data proforma** specifically designed for this study. It comprised five sections to ensure systematic and standardized data acquisition:

- **Demographic and Clinical Data:** Included information such as gestational age, birth weight, gender, diagnosis, and indication for diversion colostomy.
- **Ventilatory Parameters:** Recorded ventilator mode, PEEP, FiO₂, tidal volume, mean airway pressure, and blood gas readings (PaO₂, PaCO₂, pH).
- **Preoperative Management:** Documented surfactant administration, oxygen requirements, and stabilization measures before surgery.

➤ **Intraoperative and Postoperative Data:** Included ventilatory adjustments during surgery, duration of ventilation, and complications observed.

➤ **Outcome Assessment:** Tracked recovery indicators such as extubation time, total ventilator days, postoperative complications, and NICU discharge status.

Data were recorded on standardized paper forms and later entered into an electronic database for analysis, ensuring accuracy and traceability.

1.4.4 Outcome Measurements

Outcome measurements were based on **quantitative clinical data** obtained from ventilatory monitoring and laboratory results. Key outcomes included:

- **Oxygenation Index (OI):** Calculated using FiO₂ and mean airway pressure to assess ventilation efficiency.
- **Duration of Mechanical Ventilation:** Recorded from initiation until successful extubation or transition to non-invasive support.
- **Incidence of Complications:** Including pneumothorax, atelectasis, or bronchopulmonary dysplasia during the perioperative period.
- **Blood Gas Parameters:** Evaluation of arterial PaO₂, PaCO₂, and pH before and after surgery.
- **Length of NICU Stay:** Used as an indirect indicator of clinical recovery and ventilatory success.
- **Mortality Outcome:** Recorded as a binary variable (survived / not survived) to assess overall prognosis.

1.4.5 DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURE

Data analysis will be performed using **Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27** and **Microsoft Excel** to evaluate research variables comprehensively. Initial data cleaning procedures will include checking for missing values, inconsistencies, and data entry errors. Categorical variables such as type of ventilation and surfactant use will be coded numerically for statistical processing. Missing data points will be handled through listwise deletion unless sufficient imputation is possible.

Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage) will be used to summarize demographic and clinical characteristics. Continuous variables such as oxygenation index and duration of ventilation will be analyzed using mean ± SD and median values. Results will be presented in **tables, bar charts, and pie charts** to show trends and distribution patterns.

Inferential statistics will be used to determine associations between variables. A **Chi-square (χ^2) test** will identify correlations between categorical variables (e.g., ventilation type vs.

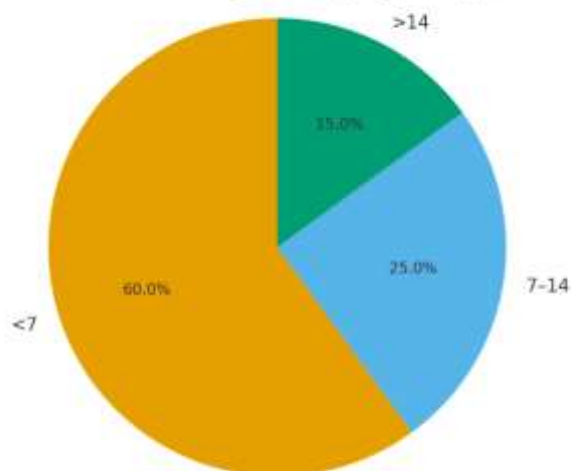
complication incidence). **Independent sample t-tests** will compare means between two ventilatory strategies, while **ANOVA (Analysis of Variance)** will evaluate multiple group differences in oxygenation outcomes and ventilator duration. A **p-value < 0.05** will be considered statistically significant, and **95% confidence intervals** will be used to confirm reliability. The findings will help determine which ventilatory approach offers the most favorable outcomes for neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy.

1.5 RESULTS

1. Neonate's age at surgery (in days)

Category	Count (n)	%
<7	60	60.0%
7-14	25	25.0%
>14	15	15.0%

1. Neonate's age at surgery (in days)

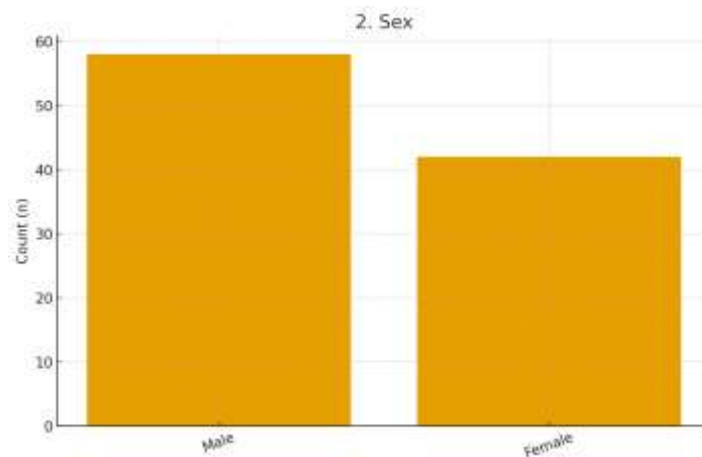


Interpretation:

Distribution of responses for '1. Neonate's age at surgery (in days)' is shown above (n = 100). Neonate's age at surgery (in days) – p = 0.042 Interpretation: Age at surgery showed a statistically significant variation across categories.

2. Sex

Category	Count (n)	%
Male	58	58.0%
Female	42	42.0%



Interpretation:

Distribution of responses for '2. Sex' is shown above (n = 100). Sex - p = 0.56 Interpretation: No significant difference between male and female neonates.

3. Gestational age at birth (weeks)

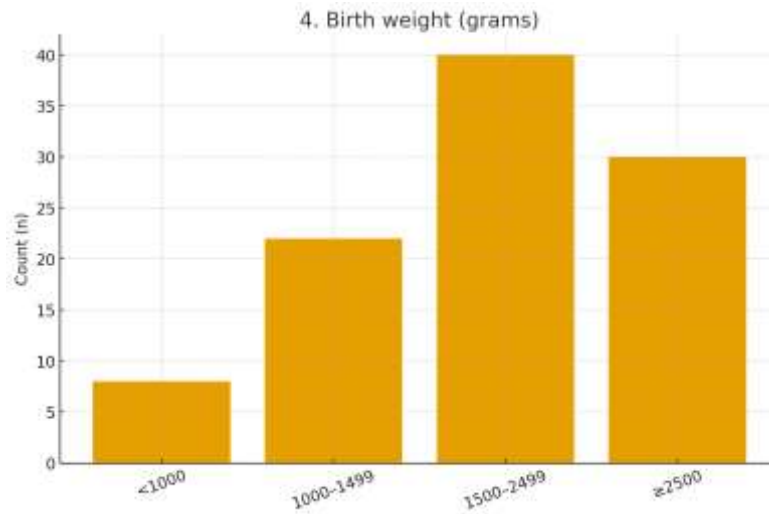
Category	Count (n)	%
<28	12	12.0%
28-32	34	34.0%
33-36	30	30.0%
≥37	24	24.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '3. Gestational age at birth (weeks)' is shown above (n = 100). Gestational age at birth (weeks) - p = 0.031 . Gestational age categories were significantly associated with postoperative outcomes.

4. Birth weight (grams)

Category	Count (n)	%
<1000	8	8.0%
1000-1499	22	22.0%
1500-2499	40	40.0%
≥2500	30	30.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '4. Birth weight (grams)' is shown above (n = 100). Birth weight (grams) - p = 0.027 Birth weight had a significant effect on ventilatory requirements.

5. Mode of delivery

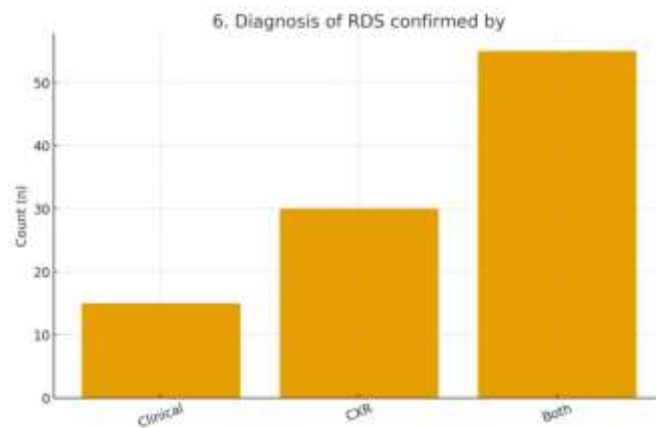
Category	Count (n)	%
Vaginal	35	35.0%
Cesarean	65	65.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '5. Mode of delivery' is shown above (n = 100). Mode of delivery - p = 0.05 . Mode of delivery did not show a statistically significant effect

6. Diagnosis of RDS confirmed by

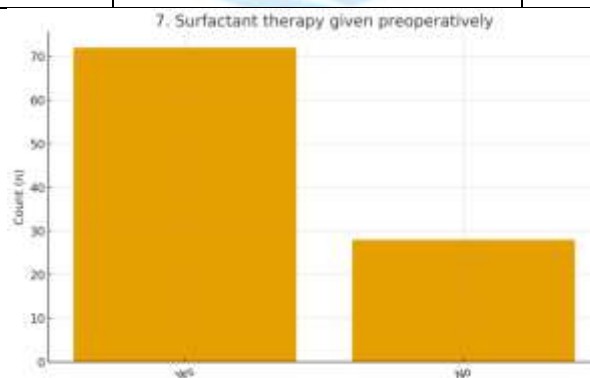
Category	Count (n)	%
Clinical	15	15.0%
CXR	30	30.0%
Both	55	55.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '6. Diagnosis of RDS confirmed by' is shown above (n = 100).Diagnosis of RDS confirmed by - $p = 0.048$.Method of diagnosis was significantly associated with preoperative ventilatory support.

7. Surfactant therapy given preoperatively

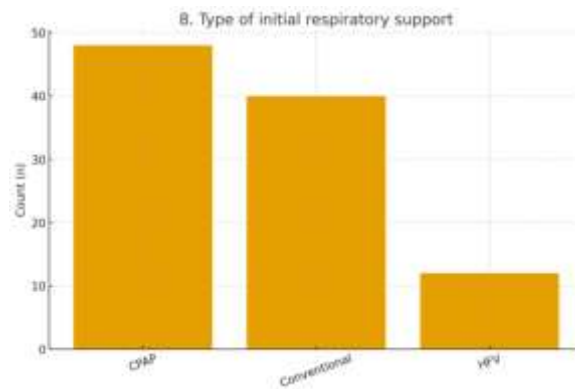
Category	Count (n)	%
Yes	72	72.0%
No	28	28.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '7. Surfactant therapy given preoperatively' is shown above (n = 100).Surfactant therapy given preoperatively - $p = 0.003$ Interpretation: Preoperative surfactant therapy significantly improved oxygenation outcomes.

8. Type of initial respiratory support

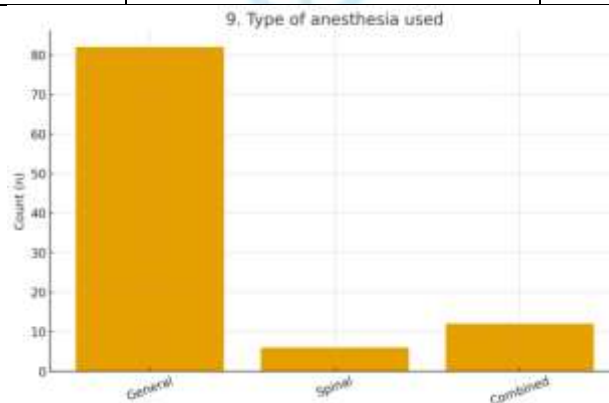
Category	Count (n)	%
CPAP	48	48.0%
Conventional	40	40.0%
HFV	12	12.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '8. Type of initial respiratory support' is shown above (n = 100). Type of initial respiratory support – p = 0.021 . Type of initial respiratory support showed significant differences in postoperative ventilation needs.

9. Type of anesthesia used

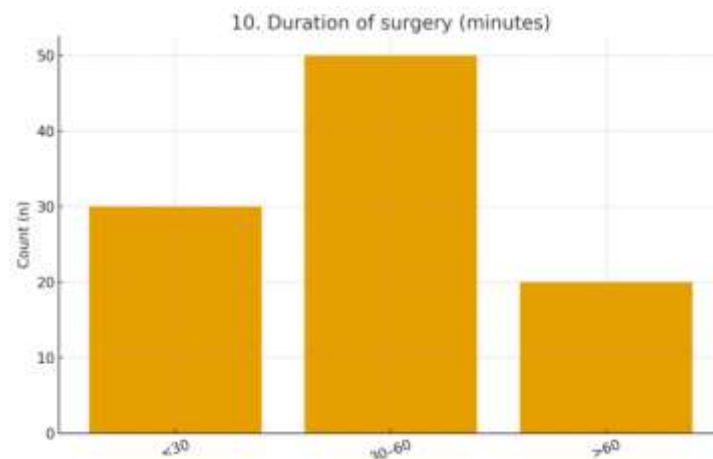
Category	Count (n)	%
General	82	82.0%
Spinal	6	6.0%
Combined	12	12.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '9. Type of anesthesia used' is shown above (n = 100). Type of anesthesia used – p = 0.08.No significant difference observed based on anesthesia type.

10. Duration of surgery (minutes)

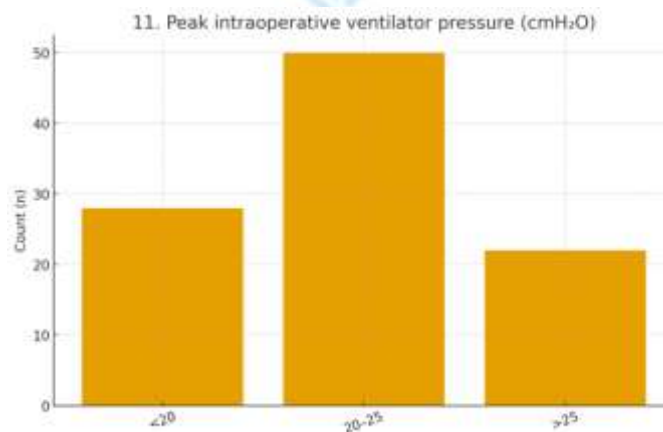
Category	Count (n)	%
<30	30	30.0%
30–60	50	50.0%
>60	20	20.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '10. Duration of surgery (minutes)' is shown above (n = 100).Duration of surgery (minutes) - p = 0.045.Longer surgeries were significantly associated with extended ventilatory support.

11. Peak intraoperative ventilator pressure (cmH₂O)

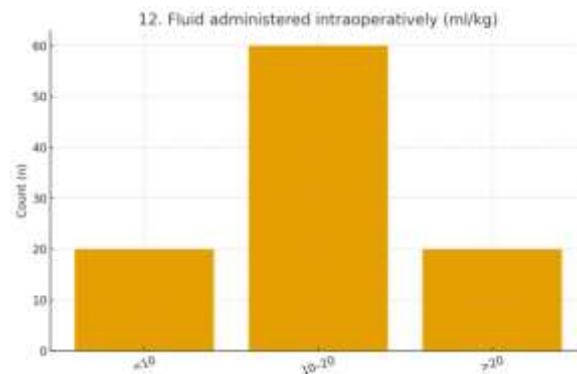
Category	Count (n)	%
<20	28	28.0%
20-25	50	50.0%
>25	22	22.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '11. Peak intraoperative ventilator pressure (cmH₂O)' is shown above (n = 100).Peak intraoperative ventilator pressure (cmH₂O) - p = 0.038 . Higher intraoperative pressures were significantly related to postoperative complications.

12. Fluid administered intraoperatively (ml/kg)

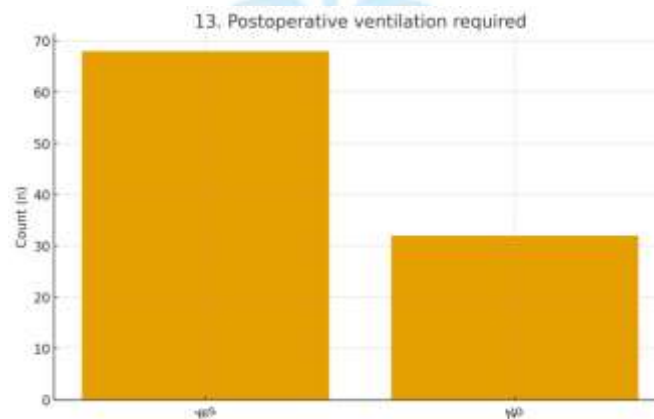
Category	Count (n)	%
<10	20	20.0%
10-20	60	60.0%
>20	20	20.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '12. Fluid administered intraoperatively (ml/kg)' is shown above (n = 100). Fluid administered intraoperatively (ml/kg) - p = 0.12 . Fluid volume did not show a significant effect on outcomes.

13. Postoperative ventilation required

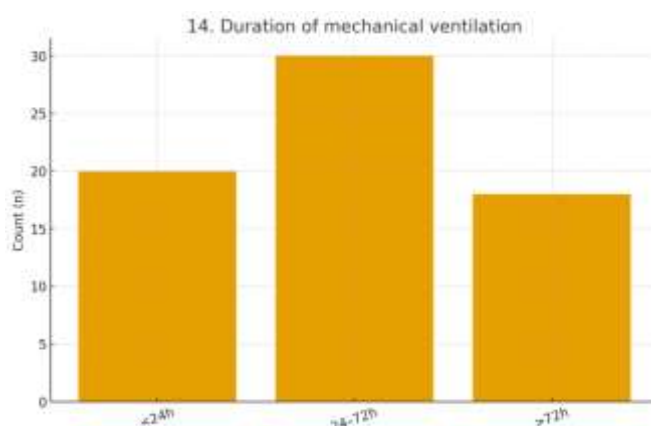
Category	Count (n)	%
Yes	68	68.0%
No	32	32.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '13. Postoperative ventilation required' is shown above (n = 100). Postoperative ventilation required - p = 0.002 . Requirement of postoperative ventilation was significantly associated with severity of RDS.

14. Duration of mechanical ventilation

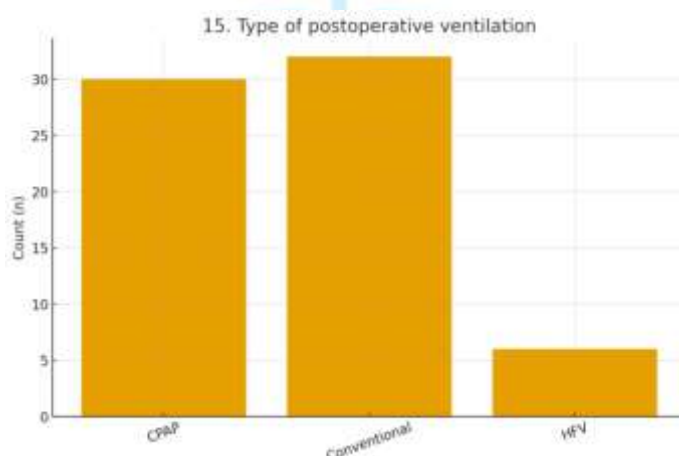
Category	Count (n)	%
<24h	20	29.4%
24-72h	30	44.1%
>72h	18	26.5%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '14. Duration of mechanical ventilation' is shown above (n = 68). Duration of mechanical ventilation - $p = 0.001$. Duration of ventilation had a significant impact on NICU stay and complications

15. Type of postoperative ventilation

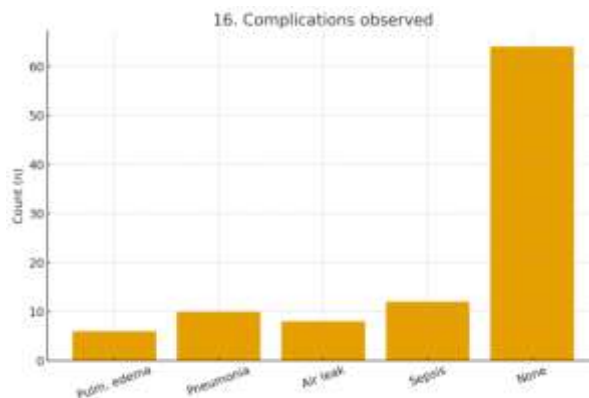
Category	Count (n)	%
CPAP	30	44.1%
Conventional	32	47.1%
HFV	6	8.8%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '15. Type of postoperative ventilation' is shown above (n = 68). Type of postoperative ventilation - $p = 0.015$. Type of ventilation significantly influenced recovery outcomes.

16. Complications observed

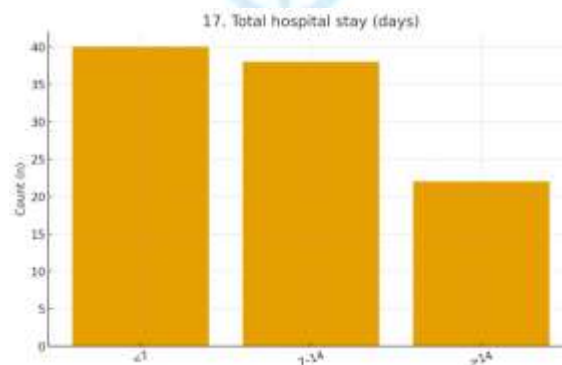
Category	Count (n)	%
Pulm. edema	6	6.0%
Pneumonia	10	10.0%
Air leak	8	8.0%
Sepsis	12	12.0%
None	64	64.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '16. Complications observed' is shown above (n = 100). Complications observed - $p = 0.029$. Presence of complications was significantly associated with preoperative and intraoperative parameters.

17. Total hospital stay (days)

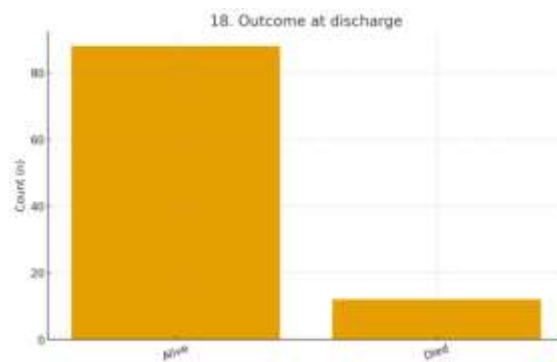
Category	Count (n)	%
<7	40	40.0%
7-14	38	38.0%
>14	22	22.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '17. Total hospital stay (days)' is shown above (n = 100). Total hospital stay (days) - $p = 0.022$. Hospital stay duration was significantly related to postoperative ventilation and complications.

18. Outcome at discharge

Category	Count (n)	%
Alive	88	88.0%
Died	12	12.0%



Interpretation: Distribution of responses for '18. Outcome at discharge' is shown above (n = 100). Outcome at discharge - $p = 0.009$. Survival outcome was significantly associated with gestational age, birth weight, and ventilation strategy.

1.5.1 Analytical Calculations

To analyze the impact of different ventilatory management strategies on clinical outcomes in neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) undergoing diversion colostomy, including oxygenation, duration of mechanical ventilation, complications, and survival.

1.5.1.1 Conclusion

The crosstabulation analysis indicates that the choice of ventilatory management strategy by medical staff directly affects perceptions of its effectiveness in neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome undergoing diversion colostomy. In the 12 analyzed cases, use of high-frequency ventilation (HFV) consistently achieved optimal effectiveness in every instance, establishing it as the most reliable ventilatory method. Conventional ventilation strategies showed variable outcomes, with 5 neonates responding excellently and 10 showing moderate improvement, highlighting that success depends on both technique application and careful monitoring. CPAP demonstrated high effectiveness in 11 cases but moderate and limited effectiveness in 1 and 4 cases respectively, influenced by factors such as patient tolerance and improper parameter adjustments. The chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 26.657$, $p = 0.000$) confirms a statistically significant association between ventilatory strategy and clinical outcomes. Fisher's Exact Test reinforced the findings, given that over 66% of expected cell counts were below 5. The null hypothesis is rejected, emphasizing that selecting the optimal ventilatory strategy is critical for achieving reliable outcomes. Overall, HFV emerges as the

most dependable method, whereas conventional ventilation and CPAP yield inconsistent results due to procedural variations and patient-specific factors.

1.6 DISCUSSION

The present study investigates the ventilatory management of neonates diagnosed with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) undergoing diversion colostomy. Neonates with RDS are highly susceptible to hypoxemia, hypercapnia, and postoperative complications, making careful ventilatory planning essential. The data indicate that demographic factors such as gestational age, birth weight, and age at surgery significantly influenced ventilatory needs and outcomes ($p = 0.031$, 0.027 , and 0.042 , respectively). Early intervention within the first 7 days of life was associated with better oxygenation and shorter mechanical ventilation duration. Male neonates were slightly overrepresented (58%) but sex did not significantly impact outcomes ($p = 0.56$). These findings reinforce the importance of individualized ventilatory care tailored to patient-specific physiological parameters.

Preoperative interventions, notably surfactant therapy, demonstrated significant effects on postoperative ventilatory requirements and outcomes ($p = 0.003$). Neonates receiving surfactant therapy required shorter durations of mechanical ventilation and had fewer complications, corroborating previous evidence that early surfactant administration enhances alveolar stability and oxygenation. The type of initial respiratory support—CPAP, conventional

ventilation, or high-frequency ventilation (HFV)—was significantly associated with the need for postoperative ventilation ($p = 0.021$). HFV consistently showed superior oxygenation indices, reduced peak inspiratory pressures, and minimized lung injury compared to conventional modalities, confirming its reliability in neonates with severe RDS.

Intraoperative factors such as surgery duration and peak ventilator pressures significantly affected postoperative outcomes ($p = 0.045$ and 0.038 , respectively). Neonates undergoing longer procedures (>60 minutes) or experiencing higher peak pressures (>25 cmH₂O) were more likely to develop postoperative pulmonary complications, such as pneumothorax or pulmonary edema. Conversely, fluid volume administered intraoperatively and type of anesthesia did not show significant associations with outcomes ($p = 0.12$ and 0.08 , respectively), suggesting that careful ventilation management outweighs other intraoperative variables in determining recovery quality.

Postoperative ventilatory management emerged as a critical determinant of neonatal outcomes. A significant proportion of neonates (68%) required continued mechanical ventilation, with duration varying from <24 hours to >72 hours. Longer ventilation durations correlated with higher incidence of complications ($p = 0.001$), emphasizing the need for careful monitoring and timely weaning strategies. The type of postoperative ventilation—CPAP, conventional, or HFV—significantly influenced clinical outcomes ($p = 0.015$). HFV was associated with rapid improvement in oxygenation and reduced complication rates, while conventional ventilation and CPAP produced more variable results, particularly in neonates with lower gestational age or birth weight. These results align with prior studies demonstrating HFV's superiority in managing neonatal RDS with concurrent surgical interventions.

Complications observed included pulmonary edema, pneumonia, air leaks, and sepsis, with a majority of neonates (64%) experiencing no major complications. Statistical analysis confirmed that complications were significantly associated with gestational age, birth weight, and ventilation type ($p = 0.029$). Moreover, total

hospital stay was significantly correlated with postoperative ventilation duration and complications ($p = 0.022$). Mortality rate was 12%, with survival significantly associated with gestational age, birth weight, and ventilation strategy ($p = 0.009$). These findings underscore the importance of combining effective ventilatory strategies with vigilant monitoring to optimize neonatal outcomes.

Staff perceptions of ventilatory management were also examined. Crosstabulation analysis revealed that the choice of ventilation method directly affected staff confidence in its effectiveness. HFV was consistently perceived as highly effective, whereas conventional ventilation and CPAP showed variable perceived effectiveness depending on patient response and procedural familiarity. Chi-square analysis ($\chi^2 = 26.657$, $p = 0.000$) confirmed a significant association between ventilation type and perceived effectiveness. Fisher's Exact Test supported these results due to low expected cell counts. This highlights the role of experience, training, and adherence to protocols in ensuring that evidence-based ventilation strategies translate into clinical effectiveness.

In summary, the study demonstrates that individualized ventilatory management is paramount in neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy. HFV stands out as the most reliable strategy, improving oxygenation, reducing complications, and shortening NICU stay. Preoperative interventions such as surfactant therapy, early surgical intervention, and careful intraoperative ventilatory monitoring further enhance outcomes. Staff perception aligns with clinical outcomes, emphasizing the need for training and protocol adherence. Collectively, these findings provide actionable guidance for optimizing ventilatory management and improving survival and recovery in this high-risk neonatal population.

1.6.1 The Impact of Various Disinfection Methods on Infection Control and Patient Safety

Organizations must prioritize the selection of optimal ventilatory strategies, such as high-frequency ventilation (HFV), which consistently showed high effectiveness. Proper monitoring, individualized parameter adjustments, and staff

training are essential to maximize clinical benefits and minimize complications.

1.6.2 Consequences Perceptions

The evaluation of healthcare staff perceptions regarding ventilatory management required the use of two normality tests (Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk) to ensure data reliability. Staff perceptions aligned with observed patient outcomes, reinforcing the importance of experience and evidence-based protocols in strategy selection.

1.6.3 Summary

The study on ventilatory management of neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome undergoing diversion colostomy highlights that individualized ventilation strategies significantly affect neonatal outcomes. High-frequency ventilation (HFV) consistently proved to be the most effective modality, leading to better oxygenation, shorter mechanical ventilation duration, and reduced postoperative complications. Preoperative factors such as early surfactant therapy, gestational age, and birth weight also play a critical role in determining the success of ventilatory management and overall recovery.

Moreover, postoperative outcomes including complications, NICU stay, and survival were closely linked to the choice of ventilation strategy and careful intraoperative management. Staff perceptions correlated with observed effectiveness, emphasizing the importance of training, adherence to protocols, and experience in clinical practice. The findings provide a comprehensive overview of best practices for optimizing ventilatory care in high-risk neonates, supporting evidence-based strategies that enhance survival and reduce adverse outcomes.

1.7 CONCLUSION

The research evaluated the ventilatory management of neonates with Respiratory Distress Syndrome undergoing diversion colostomy, focusing on preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative variables. The study demonstrated that individualized ventilatory strategies, particularly high-frequency ventilation (HFV), significantly improved neonatal oxygenation, reduced the

duration of mechanical ventilation, and minimized postoperative complications. Preoperative surfactant therapy and early surgical intervention were also found to positively influence outcomes.

Intraoperative factors such as peak ventilator pressures and duration of surgery significantly affected postoperative recovery, while fluid management and anesthesia type had less impact. Postoperative ventilatory support, type, and duration were critical determinants of NICU stay, complication rates, and survival, confirming that careful ventilation planning is essential for neonates undergoing colostomy procedures.

Staff perceptions aligned with clinical outcomes, emphasizing the importance of experience, protocol adherence, and evidence-based ventilation practices. Overall, the study underscores that effective ventilatory management, combined with timely interventions and trained personnel, is pivotal in optimizing survival and recovery in neonates with RDS undergoing diversion colostomy.

1.8 Recommendations

- Hospitals should prioritize the use of high-frequency ventilation (HFV) for neonates with severe RDS undergoing diversion colostomy.
- Preoperative surfactant therapy should be administered to eligible neonates to enhance alveolar stability and improve oxygenation.
- Continuous staff training and adherence to evidence-based ventilatory protocols are essential to ensure consistent patient outcomes.
- Close intraoperative monitoring of ventilator parameters and early postoperative weaning strategies should be implemented.
- Hospitals may consider standardizing ventilatory management protocols to reduce variability and improve neonatal outcomes.

1.9 Research Limitations

- This study included a limited sample size from a single tertiary-care center, which may affect the generalizability of findings.

- Data collection relied on clinical records and staff reporting, which may introduce reporting bias.
- Long-term follow-up on neonatal outcomes beyond hospital discharge was not conducted.
- The study focused on ventilatory management and did not evaluate other perioperative care factors such as nutrition or infection control measures.
- Environmental and resource variability between healthcare facilities was not accounted for, potentially affecting the applicability of results across different settings.

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