Methods: Consequentially in this study from February 1st, 1995 to January 31st, 1996 we have proved the results of a SAS-monitoring with the APNEOSCREEN-1® in patients of a trauma-care ward respecting strict excluding criteria, s.e alcohol, fever, coma, cardiac and circulatory diseases. 186 patients between 35 and 65 years of age were interviewed during the first 10 days after a self-caused accident, where 122 showed symptoms pointing out a possible SAS (65.6%). Of these, 53 could be recorded and scored with this portable monitoring system.

Results and conclusion: 22 patients could be classified as an apnea-index of ≥ 10/h and a desaturation-index of ≥ 10%. Another 22 patients could be classified as limited SAS-positive with an apnea-index of ≥ 10 h or a desaturation-index of ≥ 10%. 9 patients were scored as SAS-negative with an apnea-index and a desaturation-index of < 10%. The high percentage of SAS-positive (41.5%) and limited SAS-positive (41.5%) patients in this group of trauma-patients with symptoms pointing out a possible SAS, indicates the need of accurate SAS-related history-taking and also SAS-monitoring also on a trauma-surgical ward. This is important for an adequate therapy, but also for serious accident-prevention.

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