

# A&I

## ANÄSTHESIOLOGIE & INTENSIVMEDIZIN

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**Kleefstra Syndrome**

**Leprosy**

orphan**a**nesthesia

a project of the German Society  
of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

**SUPPLEMENT NR. 20 | 2020**

## OrphanAnesthesia –

### ein krankheitsübergreifendes Projekt des Wissenschaftlichen Arbeitskreises Kinderanästhesie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie und Intensivmedizin e.V.

Ziel des Projektes ist die Veröffentlichung von Handlungsempfehlungen zur anästhesiologischen Betreuung von Patienten mit seltenen Erkrankungen. Damit will Orphan Anesthesia einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Erhöhung der Patientensicherheit leisten.

Patienten mit seltenen Erkrankungen benötigen für verschiedene diagnostische oder therapeutische Prozeduren eine anästhesiologische Betreuung, die mit einem erhöhten Risiko für anästhesieassoziierte Komplikationen einhergehen. Weil diese Erkrankungen selten auftreten, können Anästhesisten damit keine Erfahrungen gesammelt haben, so dass für die Planung der Narkose die Einholung weiterer Information unerlässlich ist. Durch vorhandene spezifische Informationen kann die Inzidenz von mit der Narkose assoziierten Komplikationen gesenkt werden. Zur Verfügung stehendes Wissen schafft Sicherheit im Prozess der Patientenversorgung.

Die Handlungsempfehlungen von OrphanAnesthesia sind standardisiert und durchlaufen nach ihrer Erstellung einen Peer-Review-Prozess, an dem ein Anästhesist sowie ein weiterer Krankheitsexperte (z.B. Pädiater oder Neurologe) beteiligt sind. Das Projekt ist international ausgerichtet, so dass die Handlungsempfehlungen grundsätzlich in englischer Sprache veröffentlicht werden.

Ab Heft 5/2014 werden im monatlichen Rhythmus je zwei Handlungsempfehlungen als Supplement der A&I unter [www.ai-online.info](http://www.ai-online.info) veröffentlicht. Als Bestandteil der A&I sind die Handlungsempfehlungen damit auch zitierfähig. Sonderdrucke können gegen Entgelt bestellt werden.

## OrphanAnesthesia –

### a project of the Scientific Working Group of Paediatric Anaesthesia of the German Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

The target of OrphanAnesthesia is the publication of anaesthesia recommendations for patients suffering from rare diseases in order to improve patients' safety. When it comes to the management of patients with rare diseases, there are only sparse evidence-based facts and even far less knowledge in the anaesthetic outcome. OrphanAnesthesia would like to merge this knowledge based on scientific publications and proven experience of specialists making it available for physicians worldwide free of charge.

All OrphanAnesthesia recommendations are standardized and need to pass a peer review process. They are being reviewed by at least one anaesthesiologist and another disease expert (e.g. paediatrician or neurologist) involved in the treatment of this group of patients.

The project OrphanAnesthesia is internationally oriented. Thus all recommendations will be published in English.

Starting with issue 5/2014, we'll publish the OrphanAnesthesia recommendations as a monthly supplement of A&I (Anästhesiologie & Intensivmedizin). Thus they can be accessed and downloaded via [www.ai-online.info](http://www.ai-online.info). As being part of the journal, the recommendations will be quotable. Reprints can be ordered for payment.

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# orphananesthesia

## Anaesthesia recommendations for **Kleefstra Syndrome**

**Disease name:** Kleefstra Syndrome

**ICD 10:** Q93.5

**Synonyms:** 9q subtelomeric deletion syndrome, 9q-syndrome, 9q34.3 deletion syndrome, 9q34.3 microdeletion syndrome, chromosome 9q deletion syndrome

**Disease summary:** Kleefstra syndrome is a very rare genetic disorder with unknown prevalence that may be associated with a distinctive facial appearance, muscular hypotonia, heart defects, frequent respiratory infections, seizures and urogenetic defects. These patients may also have characteristics of autism, developmental/speech delay and other psychiatric disorders.

Kleefstra syndrome is caused by the deletion of the EHMT1 gene or by mutations that disable its function. This would lead to a perturbation in formation of an enzyme called euchromatic histone methyltransferase (EHMT). A lack of this enzyme impairs proper control of the activity of certain genes in many organs and tissues, resulting in the abnormalities of development and functions that are characteristic of Kleefstra syndrome. Kleefstra syndrome, caused by a microdeletion at 9q34.3 or an intragenic EHMT1 pathogenic variant, is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner. The majority of cases reported to date have been de novo. Males and females are affected equally. Up to date there are just 114 confirmed cases of KS documented in the literature, but as many individuals with this condition are not diagnosed, the true prevalence may be much higher. The syndrome has been identified worldwide and in all ethnic groups. Kleefstra Syndrome may involve different parts of the body. This syndrome may include dysmorphic features (microcephaly, brachycephaly, synophrys, hypertelorism, anteverted nares, midface hypoplasia, prognathism, and macroglossia). Patients with Kleefstra syndrome present usually with developmental and intellectual delay, hypotonia and absent or limited speech. They commonly exhibit an autistic-like behaviour or communication disorders affecting social interaction. Apathy and catatonia have been described in adolescents with Kleefstra syndrome. High birth weight and childhood obesity have been reported. People with Kleefstra syndrome may also have structural brain abnormalities and congenital heart defects (conotruncal heart defect, ASD/VSD, tetralogy of Fallot, aortic coarctation, bicuspid aortic valve, and pulmonic stenosis). In a number of individuals, atrial flutter has been reported. Genitourinary abnormalities (hypospadias, cryptorchidism, vesico-ureteral reflux, hydronephrosis, renal cysts and chronic renal insufficiency) may be present. Seizures have been reported in 30% of the patients and can include tonic-clonic seizures, absence seizures, and complex partial epilepsy. Epigastric hernia, tracheo-/bronchomalacia with respiratory insufficiency, and gastro-oesophageal reflux have been also observed with a tendency to develop severe respiratory infections.

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Medicine is in progress



Perhaps new knowledge

Every patient is unique

Perhaps the diagnosis is wrong

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**Find more information on the disease, its centres of reference and patient organisations on Orphanet: [www.orpha.net](http://www.orpha.net)**

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### Typical surgery

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Patients may present at different ages for different types of surgeries/procedures and exams: such as magnetic resonance imaging, CT scans, otorhinolaryngology or plastic surgery, brainstem auditory evoked response (BAER) study, urology and dental surgery among many others.

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### Type of anaesthesia

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Patients with Kleefstra syndrome with speech disorders may benefit from sign language or use of pictograms. Patients with autistic-like behaviour or communication disorders affecting social interaction may benefit from a consultation with child life specialists, if available; or from premedication prior to surgery. Apathy and catatonia have been described in adolescents with Kleefstra Syndrome. The presence of structural brain abnormalities should be documented.

Each patient should be evaluated on an individual basis. The anaesthetic management of patients with Kleefstra syndrome may be complicated by airway problems such as difficult laryngoscopy secondary to dysmorphic features. A careful evaluation and management of a possible difficult airway should be planned. In the presence of a difficult airway, induction of anaesthesia with maintenance of spontaneous ventilation and tracheal intubation under safe conditions is highly recommended. Epigastric hernia, gastro-oesophageal reflux and obesity may increase the risk of aspiration in these patients. The presence of tracheo-/bronchomalacia with respiratory insufficiency, and a tendency to develop severe respiratory infections may predispose to respiratory complications. Regional anaesthesia may be indicated and helpful in providing analgesia, in the absence of contraindications.

People with Kleefstra syndrome should be evaluated for congenital heart disease or arrhythmia as well as for pulmonary hypertension. In the presence of pulmonary hypertension, special anaesthetic precautions would include availability of inhaled nitric oxide (NO) in the peri-operative area and in the operating room, if needed. Also, in this case, avoidance of haemodynamic perturbations, especially those increasing heart rate and/or pulmonary resistance, are recommended.

Renal function and genitourinary abnormalities should be documented, and the choice of intra- and peri-operative fluids and medications should be adjusted in the presence of chronic renal insufficiency. Difficulty in placement of a Foley catheter may be encountered in the presence of urogenital abnormalities.

Seizures have been reported in 30% of the patients with Kleefstra syndrome and can include tonic-clonic seizures, absence seizures, and complex partial epilepsy. Seizure medications' administration, avoidance of drugs/agents that may lower the seizure threshold, and seizure precautions in the peri-operative area should be applied.

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### Necessary additional pre-operative testing (beside standard care)

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The pre-operative examination should be thoroughly conducted to take into consideration concomitant issues. Baseline neurological/mental status and facial deformities should be assessed. Considerations prior to initiation of anaesthesia care are collecting information about the best approach to deal with the behavioural and communication issues. Evaluation of the airway should be done pre-operatively. Patients with Kleefstra syndrome may have

cardiac and respiratory issues, as well as structural brain abnormalities. Baseline cardiac/pulmonary and brain examination and attention to signs and symptoms of possible problems with evaluation by a specialist may be recommended. The presence of renal problems should be determined. Pre-operative evaluation should include the evaluation of possible associated urinary abnormalities.

Type, frequency and severity of seizures should be documented and the treatment should be optimised pre-operatively.

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#### **Particular preparation for airway management**

Careful evaluation for difficult tracheal intubation secondary to dysmorphic features is recommended. The presence of facial, mandibular deformities and macroglossia may result in difficulties in mask ventilation and airway maintenance.

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#### **Particular preparation for transfusion or administration of blood products**

None reported.

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#### **Particular preparation for anticoagulation**

None reported.

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#### **Particular precautions for positioning, transportation and mobilisation**

Developmental delay and/or autistic-like behaviour may require help with mobilisation and transport. Prevention of risk of injury from seizures and careful positioning is indicated secondary to hypotonia.

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#### **Interactions of chronic disease and anaesthesia medications**

There is no known interaction between anaesthetic agents and patient's long-term medication. However, special pharmacological considerations for this syndrome are related to possible involvement of vital organs/urological tract that may alter the clearance of medications. Concomitant use of antiepileptic medications may induce the metabolism of some anaesthetic medications.

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#### **Anaesthetic procedure**

Consideration and preparation for a possible difficult airway. Possibility of seizures.

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### Particular or additional monitoring

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Monitoring depends on the presence of any cardiac or structural brain abnormalities with possible increased intracranial pressure. Additional monitoring or more invasive monitoring may be needed depending on the severity and length of the procedure.

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### Possible complications

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Special attention should be given to the following points: Potential difficult airway/injury from agitation/cardiac and neurological abnormalities, seizures. Possible pulmonary infections, and gastro-oesophageal reflux. Possible renal problems. Possible agitation secondary to behavioural problems and inability to communicate secondary to cognitive and speech delay.

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### Post-operative care

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Documentation and stabilisation: Airway patency, haemodynamic stability, intracranial pressure.

Management of seizures, management of agitation and pain as described above.

Positioning secondary to hypotonia or agitation.

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### Disease-related acute problems and effect on anaesthesia and recovery

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Down syndrome  
Smith-Magenis syndrome  
Pitt-Hopkins syndrome  
Rett syndrome  
2q37 deletion syndrome

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### Ambulatory anaesthesia

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Each patient must be evaluated carefully for co-morbidity and/or airway issues. Anaesthesia and surgery have to be performed in a medical facility with capacity of taking care of potential complications.

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### Obstetrical anaesthesia

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Only few individuals with Kleefstra syndrome have been known to reproduce. Anaesthesia and surgery is to be performed in a medical facility with capacity of taking care of potential challenges and complications.

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