

RESEARCH PAPER

Cardiopulmonary effects of reverse Trendelenburg position at 5° and 10° in sevoflurane-anesthetized steers

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Abstract

Objective To assess the cardiopulmonary effects caused by reverse Trendelenburg position (RTP) at 5° and 10° in sevoflurane-anesthetized yearling steers.

Study design Prospective, experimental study.

Animals Eight Holstein steers aged (mean \pm standard deviation) 12 ± 2 months and weighing 145 ± 26 kg.

Methods In the first phase of the study, the individual minimum alveolar concentration (MAC) of sevoflurane was determined using electrical stimulation. In the second phase, the effects of RTP were assessed. The animals were anesthetized on three separate events separated by ≥ 7 days in an incomplete crossover design: control treatment using a table without tilt (RTPO); treatment with the table at 5° RTP (RTP5) and table tilted 10° RTP (RTP10). Subjects were physically restrained in dorsal recumbency on the table, which was already tilted according to each treatment. Anesthesia was induced with sevoflurane at 8% in 5 L minute^{-1} oxygen via face mask followed by maintenance with sevoflurane at 1.3 MAC and spontaneous breathing. Cardiopulmonary variables were obtained immediately after instrumentation (T_0) and then after 30, 60, 120 and 180 minutes (T_{30} , T_{60} , T_{120} and T_{180} , respectively).

Results The mean sevoflurane MAC for the eight steers was $2.12 \pm 0.31\%$. Cardiac output was lower at all time points and the systemic vascular resistance index was higher at T_{120} and T_{180} in

RTP10 compared with RTPO. Oxygen consumption was lower at T_0 and at T_{180} in RTP10 compared with RTPO and at all time points except T_{30} compared with RTP5. Oxygen extraction was lower at T_0 in RTP10 compared with RTPO and RTP5, and at T_{60} and T_{180} compared with RTP5.

Conclusions and clinical relevance RTP 5° and 10° did not improve ventilatory and oxygenation variables in sevoflurane-anesthetized steers when compared with no tilt, however the cardiovascular variables were adversely affected in RTP10.

Keywords bovine, dorsal recumbency, hemodynamic, minimum alveolar concentration, reverse Trendelenburg, sevoflurane.

Introduction

Cattle and horses are subject to hypoventilation and hypoxemia during recumbency (Klein & Fisher 1988; Wagner et al. 1990). Fundamental causes are disturbances in the ventilation–perfusion (\dot{V}/\dot{Q}) coupling and pulmonary shunting (Wagner et al. 1990).

When large animals are in dorsal recumbency, the abdominal organs exert pressure on the diaphragm resulting in lung compression and impaired spontaneous ventilation reducing residual capacity and blood flow and leading to \dot{V}/\dot{Q} mismatching (Klein & Fisher 1988; Wagner et al. 1990). Additionally, the weight of the abdominal viscera on the caudal vena cava will result in a decrease in venous return and cardiac output (CO) (Klein & Fisher 1988; Meyer et al. 2010).

Prolonged recumbency in cattle can enhance these alterations as eructation cannot occur in this position. Insufficient fasting prior to general anesthesia results in a greater impact on dynamic compliance (C_{dyn}) and decreased arterial oxygen tension (PaO_2) owing to the rumen volume and accumulation of gas (Blaze *et al.* 1988). Furthermore, the dose-related cardiopulmonary depression of inhalation anesthesia couples with the impact of recumbency on changes in respiratory function (Arai *et al.* 2006; Steffey & Mama 2007).

A maneuver that has been successfully employed in humans during anesthesia with dorsal recumbency is the cranial upward tilting of the surgical table [reverse Trendelenburg position (RTP)]. Studies have demonstrated that 30° RTP improves respiratory function in obese human patients subjected to abdominal surgery when compared with dorsal recumbency without a tilt (Perilli *et al.* 2000, 2003). In contrast, RTP may impair cardiovascular function by further reducing venous return and CO (Perilli *et al.* 2003; Hazebroek & Bonjer 2006).

In one study of the effect of epidural injection on cardiopulmonary function in calves weighing on average 58 kg, the surgical table was tilted such that the shoulder was the most dorsal point of the spinal column and the head was positioned downward (Meyer *et al.* 2010). Cardiopulmonary changes were less pronounced than reported in larger cattle in dorsal recumbency. No other studies of the cardiopulmonary effects of RTP in cattle have been found.

The aim of this study was to assess the cardiopulmonary effects of RTP with the table at 5° and 10° in sevoflurane-anesthetized steers lying in dorsal recumbency. The hypothesis was that RTP would improve ventilation and oxygenation, and would impair cardiovascular function.

Material and methods

The study comprised two phases: 1) determination of individual minimum alveolar concentration (MAC) of sevoflurane for each steer; and 2) assessment of the effects of RTP at 5° and 10° on cardiopulmonary variables in steers anesthetized with sevoflurane at $1.3 \times$ individual MAC.

Animals

The study was approved by the Animal Usage Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Odontology of Araçatuba, São Paulo State University (no. FOA-00346-2013). Eight male Holstein steers aged [mean \pm

standard deviation (SD)] 12 ± 2 months and weighing 142 ± 26 , 149 ± 29 and 145 ± 26 kg in the three treatments were used in the study. The animals were housed together in the same paddock and fed corn silage and a ration specific for their species and age. All animals were considered healthy based on physical examination and complete blood count. The animals were docile and used to being handled daily. Prior to anesthesia, each animal was placed in a stall and food was withheld for 24 hours and water for 12 hours.

Phase 1: MAC determination

The unsedated animal was restrained in right lateral recumbency using a rope harness technique. The animal was restrained by tying the limbs together and using an electric lift to place the animal onto the table. Two members of the team were needed for positioning. Sevoflurane (Sevocris; Cristália Produtos Químicos e Farmacêuticos Ltda, SP, Brazil) was administered via face mask at 8% in oxygen delivered at 5 L minute^{-1} to a rebreathing system (Conquest Big; HB Hospitalar Ind. Com. Ltda, SP, Brazil). Once general anesthesia was induced, the trachea was intubated using a laryngoscope and a guide wire (number 18 gastric probe with a central wire; Embramed Indústria e Comércio de Produtos Hospitalares Ltda, SP, Brazil). Tracheal intubation was accomplished in approximately 5 minutes, after which anesthesia was maintained with sevoflurane in oxygen at $20 \text{ mL kg}^{-1} \text{ minute}^{-1}$. The lungs were mechanically ventilated (Conquest Big; HB Hospitalar Ind. Com. Ltda) to a peak inspiratory pressure (PIP) of $15 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$ and respiratory rate (f_R) of 7 breaths minute^{-1} to maintain end-tidal carbon dioxide tension ($\text{P}_E'\text{CO}_2$) at 35–45 mmHg (4.7–6.0 kPa). End-tidal gas concentrations were sampled through a line connected between the endotracheal tube and the circuit and $\text{P}_E'\text{CO}_2$ and end-tidal sevoflurane concentration ($\text{F}_E'\text{Sevo}$) were measured by a gas analyzer (DX-2020; Dixtal Biomédica, AM, Brazil) using the manufacturer's internal calibration.

A 16 gauge catheter (Insyte; Becton Dickinson Industrias Cirúrgicas Ltda, SP, Brazil) was inserted in the left jugular vein for administration of lactated Ringer's solution (Eurofarma Laboratórios, SP, Brazil) at $3 \text{ mL kg}^{-1} \text{ minute}^{-1}$ via an infusion pump (ST550T2; Samtronic Indústria e Comércio, SP, Brazil). Systolic (SAP), diastolic (DAP) and mean (MAP) arterial pressures were recorded from the

auricular artery catheter (22 gauge, Insyte; Becton Dickinson Industrias Cirúrgicas Ltda) through heparinized saline solution (Hemofol, 10 UI mL⁻¹; Cristália Produtos Químicos e Farmacêuticos Ltda) filled tubing to a pressure transducer (MX960 LogiCal; Smiths Medical, OH, USA) placed at the level of the xiphoid process. The transducer was calibrated with a mercury column, zeroed before use and the dynamic response evaluated by the square wave (fast flush) test. The MAP was maintained above 70 mmHg during MAC determinations through increases in the fluid rate up to 10 mL kg⁻¹ hour⁻¹ or fluid boluses (15 mL kg⁻¹ in 10 minutes) until the minimum value was reached and maintained for 15 minutes. Body temperature was monitored through an esophageal thermometer and maintained between 37.5 and 39.5 °C by the use of a warm-air blanket (TC3000; Gaymar Industries Inc., NY, USA) positioned over the body when necessary.

Sevoflurane was administered at a stable Fe/Sevo for 15 minutes. Two 21 gauge needles were inserted subcutaneously 5 cm distal to the elbow joint and 5 cm apart, and an electrode was attached to each needle. Electrical stimulation (Grass-S48; Astromed Inc., CA, USA) was then administered, with each stimulus comprising 2 × 10 ms followed by 2 × 3 second electrical currents at 50 V and 50 Hz (Valverde et al. 2003). Fe/Sevo was decreased by 0.2% after each negative response (single or repeated neck or limb flexions, chewing or swallowing, coughing, sympathetic changes, or any movement that did not coincide with a stimulus) and increased 0.1% after the first positive response (two or more consecutive evident flexions of the limbs or neck, or sustained flexion of the neck) (Ewing et al. 1993). MAC was calculated for each steer as the mean value between the lowest concentration at which a negative response was detected and the highest concentration at which a positive response was detected (Quasha et al. 1980). The individual MAC was used in the phase 2 experiments, which was initiated after a minimum of 7 days.

Phase 2: Cardiopulmonary effects of RTP

All eight animals were anesthetized on two occasions for cardiopulmonary measurements during dorsal recumbency with no table tilt (RTPO) and with RTP at 5° tilt (RTP5). Randomization between RTPO and RTP5 was done using a crossover design. The first four animals were included in the RTPO and the next four in the RTP5, so that each steer was administered

both treatments. Subsequently, five of the original eight animals were anesthetized for measurements during 10° tilt (RTP10). All anesthetic episodes were separated by at least 7 days.

On the day of the experiment, the animal was physically restrained and positioned, as described for phase 1, in dorsal recumbency on the surgical table (Large Animal Surgery Table k05698; Kimzey Inc., CA, USA), tilted according to the treatment assigned. The correct angle was achieved using a wood template (5° or 10°) coupled to a leveler (4902; Tramountina, RS, Brazil).

General anesthesia was induced, the trachea intubated and anesthesia maintained with sevoflurane as described in phase 1. In phase 2, anesthesia was maintained with Fe/Sevo 1.3 × individual MAC based on the previously determined MAC values, and the animal was allowed to breathe spontaneously. An equilibration period of 40 minutes after mask induction, inclusive of instrumentation, was allowed prior to the first time point of data collection.

A Swan–Ganz catheter (7 Fr, 110 cm, 131HF&P; Edwards Lifesciences Com Prod Médicos Cirúrgicos, SP, Brazil) was inserted through an introducer (IntroFlex 8.5 Fr; Edwards Lifesciences Com Prod Médicos Cirúrgicos,) into the left jugular vein and advanced into the distal branch of the pulmonary artery. Correct positioning was confirmed through observation of the waveforms of the right atrium, right ventricle and pulmonary artery (DX-2020; Dixtal Biomédica). Core temperature recorded from the Swan–Ganz thermistor, central venous pressure (CVP), mean pulmonary arterial pressure (MPAP), pulmonary arterial occlusion pressure (PAOP) and CO were recorded through the Swan–Ganz catheter (in that order). To assess CO, the catheter was connected to the cardiac output module (DX-2020; Dixtal Biomédica). CO was measured in triplicate at the end of the expiration phase using thermodilution with the constant for the 7 Fr catheter and 10 mL of 0.9% saline solution cooled to 0–5 °C.

Lactated Ringer's solution was infused intravenously (IV) at 3 mL kg⁻¹ hour⁻¹ through the introducer side port using an infusion pump. A 22 gauge catheter was inserted into the left auricular artery for measurement of SAP, MAP and DAP using the same equipment and technique as described for Phase 1. Heart rate (HR) was derived from the computerized electrocardiogram (DX-2020; Dixtal Biomédica) using lead II.

Cardiac index (CI), systemic vascular resistance index (SVRI), pulmonary vascular resistance index (PVRI) and stroke index (SI) were calculated according to the following formulae (Araújo et al. 2014):

$$CI = CO/BSA \left(L \text{ minute}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \right)$$

where BSA = body surface area in m^2 ($BSA = \text{weight}^{0.06667/10}$);

$$SVRI = [(MAP - CVP/CI)] \\ \times 80 \left(\text{dyne second cm}^{-5} \text{ m}^{-2} \right);$$

$$PVRI = [(MPAP - PAOP/CI)] \\ \times 80 \left(\text{dyne second cm}^{-5} \text{ m}^{-2} \right);$$

$$SI = 1000 \times CI/HR \left(\text{mL beat}^{-1} \text{ kg}^{-1} \right).$$

Tidal volume (V_T), minute volume (\dot{V}_E), peak inspiratory flow (PIF) and f_R were obtained from the ventilatory module (DX-2020; Dixtal Biomédica).

Arterial and mixed-venous blood samples (0.6 mL) were drawn from the auricular artery and the pulmonary artery, respectively, into heparinized syringes (A-Line; Becton Dickinson Industrias Cirúrgicas Ltda) for blood gas analysis (Omni C; Roche Diagnostics, Germany), which included pH and arterial and mixed venous oxygen and carbon dioxide tensions (PaO_2 , $P\bar{V}O_2$, $PaCO_2$ and $P\bar{V}CO_2$), oxygen saturations (SaO_2 and $S\bar{V}O_2$), base excess and bicarbonate. Samples were immediately analyzed and the values were corrected to core temperature. Additional arterial and mixed venous blood samples (4 mL) were obtained, placed in ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) tubes and stored at 5°C for hemoglobin (Hb) measurement (Labquest; Labtest Diagnóstica S.A., MG, Brazil), which was performed within 6 hours. Hematocrit was obtained through centrifugation.

To obtain the oxygen content-based indices, the arterial, venous and capillary oxygen contents (CaO_2 , $C\bar{V}O_2$ and $Cc'O_2$, respectively) were calculated (Araos et al. 2012):

$$CaO_2 = Hb \times 1.31 \times SaO_2 + 0.0031 \\ \times PaO_2 \left(\text{mL dL}^{-1} \right);$$

$$C\bar{V}O_2 = Hb \times 1.31 \times S\bar{V}O_2 \\ + 0.0031 \times P\bar{V}O_2 \left(\text{mL dL}^{-1} \right); \text{ and}$$

$$Cc'O_2 = Hb \times 1.31 \times 1 \\ + 0.0031 \times P_{AO_2} \left(\text{mL dL}^{-1} \right),$$

where 1.31 is the carrying capacity of Hb in mL g^{-1} ; 0.0031 is the solubility of oxygen in plasma;

and PAO_2 is the alveolar oxygen tension in mmHg (Araos et al. 2012):

$$P_{AO_2} = [FIO_2 \times (P_B - P_{H_2O})] - (PaCO_2 \times 0.8)$$

where P_B is the barometric pressure in mmHg; P_{H_2O} is the water vapor pressure in mmHg; and 0.8 is the respiratory coefficient. Both P_B and P_{H_2O} were results obtained from the blood gas machine.

Venous admixture (\dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t), oxygen delivery (DO_2), oxygen consumption $\dot{V}O_2$ and oxygen extraction ratio (O_2ER) were calculated (Araos et al. 2012; Floriano et al. 2016):

$$\dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t = (Cc'O_2 - CaO_2)/(Cc'O_2 - C\bar{V}O_2) \\ \times 100 (\%);$$

$$DO_2 = CaO_2 \times CI \times 10 \left(\text{mL minute}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \right);$$

$$\dot{V}O_2 = (CaO_2 - C\bar{V}O_2) \times CI \\ \times 10 \left(\text{mL minute}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \right); \text{ and}$$

$$O_2ER = (CaO_2 - C\bar{V}O_2)/CaO_2$$

After instrumentation (approximately 40 minutes of anesthesia) cardiopulmonary variables were recorded: the first time point after the preparation period (T_0) and then at 30, 60, 120 and 180 minutes (T_{30} , T_{60} , T_{120} and T_{180}).

At the end of the procedure, the animal was lifted from the surgical table by an electrical lift and taken to the recovery room where it was positioned in right lateral recumbency to be observed until full recovery was accomplished. Flunixin meglumine (2.2 mg kg^{-1} ; Desflan; Ouro Fino Saúde Animal, SP, Brazil) was administered IV after complete recovery from anesthesia.

Statistical analysis

Data are expressed as means \pm SD. The Kolmogorov–Smirnov test was performed to evaluate normality. Data presenting normal distribution (parametric) were analyzed through analysis of variance for repeated measures (RM-ANOVA) via the SASMIXED procedure (Statistical Analysis System Version 9.3; SAS Institute Inc., NC, USA). Multiple comparisons were performed by least squares means (LSMEANS) and Tukey's test adjustment. Data that failed normality test (nonparametric) were analyzed through Friedman's test. Wilcoxon's test was performed to analyze every pair of treatments when statistical significance was found. In all analyses,

significance was considered when $p < 0.05$ (SAS Version 9.3; SAS Institute Inc.).

Results

In phase 1, the mean sevoflurane MAC of the individual MAC determinations for the eight steers was $2.12 \pm 0.31\%$.

In phase 2, there were no significant differences between treatments with respect to body weight,

time for instrumentation and anesthetic time. There were no differences in HR over 180 minutes of anesthesia within each treatment or among treatments (Table 1). SAP, MAP and DAP increased over time in RTP5 and DAP increased in RTP0 (Table 1; $p < 0.05$). CI was significantly lower in RTP10 than in RTP0 at all time points ($p < 0.05$). SVRI was increased in RTP5 at T_{60} and T_{120} over T_0 and T_{30} , and was significantly higher in RTP10 compared

Table 1 Mean \pm standard deviation of hemodynamic variables and core (pulmonary artery) temperature of sevoflurane-anesthetized steers breathing spontaneously during dorsal recumbency with 0° tilt (RTP0, $n = 8$) or in reverse Trendelenburg position (RTP) at 5° (RTP5, $n = 8$) or 10° (RTP10, $n = 5$) for 180 minutes (T_0 to T_{180})

Variable	RTP	Time points				
		T_0	T_{30}	T_{60}	T_{120}	T_{180}
HR (beats minute ⁻¹)	0	79 \pm 10	80 \pm 14	77 \pm 12	75 \pm 11	73 \pm 11
	5	71 \pm 11	72 \pm 13	75 \pm 16	73 \pm 13	72 \pm 13
	10	73 \pm 5	72 \pm 3	71 \pm 2	69 \pm 3	69 \pm 4
SAP (mmHg)	0	126 \pm 16	139 \pm 28	145 \pm 21	144 \pm 18	137 \pm 14
	5	115 \pm 12 ^a	130 \pm 22 ^{ab}	136 \pm 14 ^{ab}	148 \pm 13 ^b	146 \pm 9 ^b
	10	129 \pm 12	131 \pm 11	139 \pm 18	147 \pm 21	147 \pm 16
MAP (mmHg)	0	98 \pm 18	109 \pm 25	114 \pm 22	114 \pm 19	105 \pm 17
	5	87 \pm 9 ^a	101 \pm 18 ^{ab}	109 \pm 16 ^b	117 \pm 13 ^b	113 \pm 10 ^b
	10	102 \pm 13	107 \pm 14	113 \pm 19	121 \pm 22	120 \pm 18
DAP (mmHg)	0	77 \pm 19 ^a	87 \pm 27 ^{ab}	92 \pm 22 ^b	91 \pm 21 ^b	81 \pm 19 ^{ab}
	5	66 \pm 8 ^a	79 \pm 17 ^{ab}	87 \pm 17 ^b	93 \pm 14 ^b	87 \pm 11 ^{ab}
	10	82 \pm 13	86 \pm 13	97 \pm 21	99 \pm 23	96 \pm 20
CVP (mmHg)	0	-4 \pm 2	-3 \pm 3	-3 \pm 3	-2 \pm 3	-3 \pm 3
	5	-2 \pm 4	-2 \pm 4	-2 \pm 4	-2 \pm 4	-3 \pm 4
	10	-2 \pm 2	-2 \pm 2	-2 \pm 2	-2 \pm 2	-1 \pm 2
CI (L minute ⁻¹ m ⁻²)	0	5.0 \pm 1.0 ^A	5.1 \pm 0.6 ^A	5.2 \pm 0.9 ^A	5.3 \pm 0.9 ^A	5.3 \pm 1.1 ^A
	5	4.8 \pm 0.6 ^{AB}	4.7 \pm 0.6 ^{AB}	4.6 \pm 0.7 ^{AB}	4.9 \pm 0.9 ^{AB}	5.0 \pm 0.9 ^{AB}
	10	4.2 \pm 0.6 ^B	4.3 \pm 0.4 ^B	4.3 \pm 0.2 ^B	4.1 \pm 0.6 ^B	4.4 \pm 0.5 ^B
SI (mL beat ⁻¹ kg ⁻¹)	0	1.2 \pm 0.2	1.3 \pm 0.2	1.3 \pm 0.2	1.4 \pm 0.2	1.4 \pm 0.3
	5	1.3 \pm 0.3	1.3 \pm 0.2	1.2 \pm 0.2	1.3 \pm 0.2	1.3 \pm 0.2
	10	1.1 \pm 0.2	1.1 \pm 0.2	1.2 \pm 0.1	1.2 \pm 0.2	1.2 \pm 0.2
MPAP (mmHg)	0	9 \pm 2	9 \pm 2	9 \pm 3	10 \pm 3	10 \pm 3
	5	8 \pm 4	8 \pm 4	10 \pm 4	12 \pm 4	12 \pm 4
	10	8 \pm 3	9 \pm 3	9 \pm 4	10 \pm 4	11 \pm 4
PAOP (mmHg)	0	1 \pm 3	0 \pm 3	1 \pm 3	1 \pm 3	0 \pm 4
	5	1 \pm 4	1 \pm 4	2 \pm 4	3 \pm 3	2 \pm 4
	10	—	—	—	—	—
SVRI (dyne second cm ⁻⁵ m ⁻²)	0	1683 \pm 496 ^{AB}	1756 \pm 300	1871 \pm 508	1805 \pm 451 ^A	1703 \pm 445 ^A
	5	1510 \pm 284 ^{Aa}	1800 \pm 407 ^{ab}	1987 \pm 454 ^b	1998 \pm 438 ^{ABb}	1916 \pm 366 ^{ABab}
	10	2006 \pm 357 ^B	2049 \pm 322	2120 \pm 287	2406 \pm 574 ^B	2227 \pm 427 ^B
PVRI (dyne second cm ⁻⁵ m ⁻²)	0	154 \pm 37	137 \pm 23	126 \pm 34	131 \pm 13	128 \pm 35
	5	162 \pm 31	148 \pm 32	169 \pm 31	167 \pm 35	175 \pm 37
	10	—	—	—	—	—
Core temperature ($^\circ$ C)	0	38.4 \pm 0.4	38.4 \pm 0.4	38.5 \pm 0.5	38.6 \pm 0.5	38.7 \pm 0.6
	5	38.2 \pm 0.3	38.2 \pm 0.3	38.2 \pm 0.4	38.2 \pm 0.6	38.3 \pm 0.5
	10	38.0 \pm 0.4	38.0 \pm 0.5	38.1 \pm 0.3	38.1 \pm 0.3	38.2 \pm 0.4

Means followed by different lowercase letters (time points) or uppercase letters (treatments) are significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

HR, heart rate; SAP, systolic arterial pressure; MAP, mean arterial pressure; DAP, diastolic arterial pressure; CVP, central venous pressure; CI, cardiac index; SI, stroke index; MPAP, mean pulmonary arterial pressure; PAOP, pulmonary artery occlusion pressure; SVRI, systemic vascular resistance index; PVRI, pulmonary vascular resistance index.

with RTP0 at T₁₂₀ and T₁₈₀ (Table 1; $p < 0.05$). CVP and MPAP were unchanged during anesthesia and not different among treatments (Table 1).

Arterial pH and PaO₂ were unchanged during anesthesia and were not different among treatments (Table 2). Hypercarbia was present in animals in all treatments and persisted through the 180 minutes of monitoring (Table 2). P $\bar{V}O_2$ was higher in RTP10 than

RTP5 at T₃₀ and T₆₀ but was not different from RTP0 (Table 2; $p < 0.05$). S $\bar{V}O_2$ was higher in RTP10 than in RTP5 at all time points (Table 2; $p < 0.05$). The hematocrit was higher in RTP10 at T₀ and T₆₀ than in RTP0. No significant differences were found in FIO₂, f_R , \dot{V}_E or V_T over time or among treatments (Table 3).

The \dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t was lower at T₀ in RTP0 and RTP5 and at T₆₀ in RTP5 compared with RTP10 (Table 4; $p < 0.05$).

Table 2 Mean \pm standard deviation of blood gas variables of sevoflurane-anesthetized steers breathing spontaneously during dorsal recumbency with 0° table tilt (RTP0, $n = 8$) or in reverse Trendelenburg position (RTP) at 5° (RTP5, $n = 8$) or 10° (RTP10, $n = 5$) for 180 minutes (T₀ to T₁₈₀)

Variable	RTP	Time points				
		T ₀	T ₃₀	T ₆₀	T ₁₂₀	T ₁₈₀
Arterial pH	0	7.27 \pm 0.02	7.27 \pm 0.03	7.27 \pm 0.03	7.28 \pm 0.03	7.27 \pm 0.04
	5	7.27 \pm 0.02	7.27 \pm 0.02	7.27 \pm 0.02	7.27 \pm 0.03	7.26 \pm 0.03
	10	7.28 \pm 0.02	7.28 \pm 0.04	7.28 \pm 0.01	7.29 \pm 0.03	7.29 \pm 0.03
PaO ₂ (mmHg)	0	277 \pm 52	276 \pm 41	273 \pm 39	274 \pm 46	293 \pm 61
	5	248 \pm 57	243 \pm 68	260 \pm 63	247 \pm 59	262 \pm 63
	10	252 \pm 51	280 \pm 55	290 \pm 42	294 \pm 52	302 \pm 52
PaO ₂ (kPa)	0	36.9 \pm 6.9	36.7 \pm 5.4	36.4 \pm 5.2	36.4 \pm 6.1	39.0 \pm 8.1
	5	33.0 \pm 7.6	32.3 \pm 9.1	34.7 \pm 8.4	32.9 \pm 7.9	34.9 \pm 8.4
	10	33.6 \pm 6.8	37.3 \pm 7.3	38.7 \pm 5.6	39.2 \pm 7.0	40.3 \pm 6.9
PaCO ₂ (mmHg)	0	72 \pm 2	73 \pm 5	74 \pm 5	73 \pm 4	76 \pm 6
	5	68 \pm 5	71 \pm 4	72 \pm 4	73 \pm 4	74 \pm 4
	10	72 \pm 5	72 \pm 8	72 \pm 5	72 \pm 7	73 \pm 6
PaCO ₂ (kPa)	0	9.6 \pm 0.3	9.7 \pm 0.6	9.9 \pm 0.6	9.7 \pm 0.5	10.1 \pm 0.8
	5	9.1 \pm 0.6	9.5 \pm 0.6	9.5 \pm 0.5	9.8 \pm 0.6	9.9 \pm 0.6
	10	9.6 \pm 0.7	9.6 \pm 1.1	9.6 \pm 0.7	9.6 \pm 1.0	9.7 \pm 0.7
SaO ₂ (%)	0	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.2	99.8 \pm 0.1
	5	99.6 \pm 0.6	99.6 \pm 0.4	99.7 \pm 0.2	99.7 \pm 0.2	99.7 \pm 0.2
	10	99.7 \pm 0.2	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.1	99.8 \pm 0.1
P $\bar{V}O_2$ (mmHg)	0	66.8 \pm 5.7	70.0 \pm 7.5 ^{AB}	68.0 \pm 5.0 ^B	67.0 \pm 4.5	66.1 \pm 6.2
	5	63.3 \pm 4.9	62.7 \pm 6.3 ^A	62.7 \pm 3.5 ^A	62.4 \pm 3.5	64.8 \pm 5.9
	10	72.0 \pm 4.8	73.3 \pm 5.7 ^B	70.4 \pm 2.4 ^B	73.0 \pm 7.1	70.9 \pm 7.1
P $\bar{V}CO_2$ (mmHg)	0	79.4 \pm 4.1 ^a	78.9 \pm 4.2 ^{ab}	81.8 \pm 3.6 ^{ab}	81.7 \pm 3.4 ^{ab}	84.7 \pm 4.7 ^b
	5	75.5 \pm 3.8 ^a	79.0 \pm 3.9 ^{ab}	79.6 \pm 3.8 ^{ab}	81.7 \pm 3.5 ^b	82.1 \pm 3.9 ^b
	10	79.4 \pm 5.7	78.9 \pm 6.0	81.1 \pm 6.5	80.8 \pm 5.7	81.9 \pm 6.8
S $\bar{V}O_2$ (%)	0	86.1 \pm 3.5 ^{AB}	87.7 \pm 4.1 ^{AB}	86.8 \pm 3.6 ^{AB}	86.4 \pm 3.5 ^{AB}	85.9 \pm 3.8 ^{AB}
	5	83.9 \pm 3.8 ^A	83.9 \pm 3.8 ^A	83.7 \pm 3.0 ^A	83.7 \pm 3.2 ^A	84.3 \pm 4.2 ^A
	10	88.9 \pm 2.2 ^B	88.8 \pm 2.6 ^B	89.8 \pm 2.2 ^B	89.4 \pm 2.5 ^B	89.3 \pm 2.9 ^B
Arterial bicarbonate (mmol L ⁻¹)	0	31.5 \pm 1.3	31.9 \pm 1.2	32.4 \pm 1.1	32.5 \pm 1.5	32.9 \pm 1.5
	5	30.7 \pm 2.1	32.0 \pm 2.0	31.9 \pm 1.8	32.7 \pm 2.2	32.5 \pm 2.5
	10	32.4 \pm 2.3	32.6 \pm 2.1	33.2 \pm 2.2	33.5 \pm 2.9	33.7 \pm 2.5
Arterial base excess (mmol L ⁻¹)	0	3.6 \pm 1.2	4.2 \pm 1.3	4.6 \pm 1.3	4.9 \pm 1.5	4.9 \pm 1.8
	5	2.8 \pm 2.1	3.6 \pm 2.0	3.3 \pm 1.9	4.1 \pm 2.3	4.0 \pm 2.6
	10	4.2 \pm 2.5	4.7 \pm 1.9	5.0 \pm 2.0	5.7 \pm 2.7	5.8 \pm 2.5
Arterial hemoglobin (g dL ⁻¹)	0	9.8 \pm 0.4	9.7 \pm 0.4	9.5 \pm 0.5	9.6 \pm 0.5	9.8 \pm 0.5
	5	9.8 \pm 0.4	9.7 \pm 0.4	9.7 \pm 0.4	9.7 \pm 0.5	9.9 \pm 0.6
	10	9.7 \pm 0.9	9.8 \pm 0.9	9.7 \pm 0.9	10.1 \pm 0.9	10.2 \pm 1.0
Arterial hematocrit (%)	0	29 \pm 1 ^A	29 \pm 1	29 \pm 1 ^A	29 \pm 1	29 \pm 1
	5	31 \pm 3 ^{AB}	31 \pm 3	31 \pm 3 ^{AB}	31 \pm 3	32 \pm 3
	10	33 \pm 4 ^B	32 \pm 4	33 \pm 4 ^B	33 \pm 4	34 \pm 5

Means followed by different lowercase letters (time points) or uppercase letters (treatments) are significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

PaO₂, arterial oxygen tension; PaCO₂, arterial carbon dioxide tension; SaO₂, arterial oxygen saturation; P $\bar{V}O_2$, mixed venous oxygen tension; P $\bar{V}CO_2$, mixed venous carbon dioxide tension; S $\bar{V}O_2$, mixed venous oxygen saturation.

Table 3 Mean \pm standard deviation of respiratory variables of sevoflurane-anesthetized steers breathing spontaneously during dorsal recumbency (RTP0; $n = 8$) or in reverse Trendelenburg position at 5° (RTP5; $n = 8$) or 10° (RTP10; $n = 5$) for 180 minutes (T₀ to T₁₈₀)

Variable	RTP	Time points				
		T ₀	T ₃₀	T ₆₀	T ₁₂₀	T ₁₈₀
f_R (breaths minute ⁻¹)	0	32 \pm 3	33 \pm 4	33 \pm 4	34 \pm 3	34 \pm 4
	5	30 \pm 3	32 \pm 5	32 \pm 5	32 \pm 5	33 \pm 4
	10	30 \pm 4	30 \pm 4	31 \pm 4	32 \pm 5	32 \pm 5
\dot{V}_E (L minute ⁻¹)	0	21 \pm 4	22 \pm 3	23 \pm 4	22 \pm 4	23 \pm 5
	5	19 \pm 5	20 \pm 5	22 \pm 5	22 \pm 6	22 \pm 7
	10	20 \pm 4	20 \pm 4	23 \pm 3	23 \pm 4	23 \pm 3
V_T (mL kg ⁻¹)	0	4.7 \pm 0.7	4.7 \pm 0.7	4.8 \pm 0.8	4.7 \pm 0.9	4.8 \pm 0.9
	5	4.2 \pm 1.1	4.2 \pm 0.9	4.8 \pm 1.1	4.6 \pm 1.0	4.7 \pm 1.0
	10	4.6 \pm 0.9	4.8 \pm 0.6	4.9 \pm 0.7	5.1 \pm 0.4	5.1 \pm 0.3
PIF (L minute ⁻¹)	0	82 \pm 19	86 \pm 17	89 \pm 20	91 \pm 19	94 \pm 20
	5	81 \pm 13	84 \pm 17	90 \pm 19	93 \pm 19	95 \pm 20
	10	81 \pm 12	92 \pm 14	97 \pm 14	92 \pm 13	93 \pm 12
FIO ₂ (%)	0	91 \pm 3	90 \pm 3	90 \pm 3	90 \pm 2	90 \pm 2
	5	89 \pm 3	89 \pm 4	89 \pm 5	88 \pm 3	88 \pm 2
	10	91 \pm 2	92 \pm 1	91 \pm 2	90 \pm 2	90 \pm 1
PE'CO ₂ (mmHg)	0	47 \pm 6	46 \pm 6	47 \pm 6	46 \pm 3	46 \pm 4
	5	46 \pm 3	45 \pm 5	45 \pm 5	46 \pm 3	46 \pm 3
	10	49 \pm 8	50 \pm 7	51 \pm 4	49 \pm 3	51 \pm 2
PE'CO ₂ (kPa)	0	6.3 \pm 0.8	6.1 \pm 0.8	6.3 \pm 0.8	6.1 \pm 0.4	6.1 \pm 0.5
	5	6.1 \pm 0.4	6.0 \pm 0.7	6.0 \pm 0.7	6.1 \pm 0.4	6.1 \pm 0.4
	10	6.5 \pm 1.1	6.7 \pm 0.9	6.8 \pm 0.5	6.5 \pm 0.4	6.8 \pm 0.3

No significant differences ($p > 0.05$).

f_R , respiratory rate; \dot{V}_E minute volume; V_T , tidal volume; PIF, peak inspiratory flow; FIO₂, inspired oxygen fraction; PE'CO₂, end-tidal carbon dioxide tension.

Over time, \dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t was higher at T₆₀ compared with T₀ in RTP0 and lower at T₁₂₀ and T₁₈₀ compared with T₀ in RTP10 (Table 4; $p < 0.05$). No significant differences were found in DO₂ over time or among treatments (Table 4). The $\dot{V}O_2$ was lower at T₀ in RTP10 compared with RTP0 and lower at all times except T₃₀ in RTP10 compared with RTP5 (Table 4; $p < 0.05$). The O₂ER was lower at T₀ in RTP10 compared with RTP0 and lower at T₀, T₆₀ and T₁₂₀ in RTP10 compared with RTP5.

All steers recovered from all anesthesia episodes without complications.

Discussion

The MAC for sevoflurane was previously determined for each calf in phase 1 of this study to minimize the influence of anesthetic depth on cardiopulmonary variables during phase 2. This was considered necessary owing to the absence of reported MAC value for sevoflurane in cattle and because inhalation anesthesia causes dose-dependent cardiopulmonary depression (Arai et al. 2006; Steffey & Mama 2007). The MAC values determined for steers in this study, mean 2.12%, were close to the reported values in dogs (Alvillar et al.

2012), goats (Hikasa et al. 1998), horses (Gozalo-Marcilla et al. 2013) and sheep (Okutomi et al. 2009).

The decision to include the RTP10 treatment after completion of RTP0 and RTP5 procedures aimed at improving the information provided in this study by using the higher degree of tilting. However, the late inclusion of RTP10 together with the lowest number of animals in this treatment may have contributed to a reduction or increase in the differences between treatments.

It is possible that physical restraint, positioning of the animal on the surgical table and mask induction to anesthesia may have stimulated the animals, and thereby influenced subsequent cardiopulmonary variables. However, these animals were accustomed to handling and all the study procedures were completed without difficulties.

The angles (5 and 10°) for tilting the table in this study seem small compared with the 30° tilt used in humans. However, there was a concern that greater adverse cardiovascular changes would occur at a higher degree of RTP and that associated anatomical repositioning may interfere with some surgical procedures (Perilli et al. 2003).

Table 4 Mean \pm standard deviation of oxygen content-based indices of sevoflurane-anesthetized steers breathing spontaneously during dorsal recumbency (RTP0; $n = 8$) or in reverse Trendelenburg position at 5° (RTP5; $n = 8$) or 10° (RTP10; $n = 5$) for 180 minutes (T₀ to T₁₈₀)

Variable	RTP	Time points				
		T ₀	T ₃₀	T ₆₀	T ₁₂₀	T ₁₈₀
\dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t (%)	0	27.3 \pm 5.2 ^{Aa}	31.8 \pm 13.8 ^{ab}	34.9 \pm 13.3 ^{Ab}	30.1 \pm 6.2 ^{ab}	26.6 \pm 5.1 ^{ab}
	5	27.5 \pm 5.9 ^A	26.5 \pm 7.4	25.7 \pm 5.9 ^B	26.7 \pm 5.4	24.1 \pm 6.6
	10	39.4 \pm 4.5 ^{Ba}	33.4 \pm 5.5 ^{ab}	33.2 \pm 8.2 ^{ABab}	31.3 \pm 8.2 ^b	28.9 \pm 4.4 ^b
DO ₂ (mL minute ⁻¹ m ⁻²)	0	687 \pm 133	691 \pm 81	686 \pm 118	713 \pm 116	719 \pm 130
	5	688 \pm 83	660 \pm 77	650 \pm 86	701 \pm 105	719 \pm 97
	10	566 \pm 102	583 \pm 91	590 \pm 53	584 \pm 85	634 \pm 110
$\dot{V}O_2$ (mL minute ⁻¹ m ⁻²)	0	121 \pm 37 ^A	107 \pm 40	97 \pm 48 ^{AB}	112 \pm 40 ^{AB}	118 \pm 24 ^A
	5	124 \pm 29 ^A	105 \pm 44	123 \pm 32 ^A	128 \pm 29 ^A	145 \pm 41 ^A
	10	63 \pm 10 ^B	76 \pm 9	70 \pm 9 ^B	76 \pm 25 ^B	84 \pm 16 ^B
O ₂ ER	0	0.17 \pm 0.03 ^A	0.15 \pm 0.06	0.14 \pm 0.06 ^{AB}	0.15 \pm 0.04	0.16 \pm 0.03 ^{AB}
	5	0.18 \pm 0.03 ^A	0.16 \pm 0.06	0.19 \pm 0.04 ^A	0.18 \pm 0.03	0.20 \pm 0.04 ^A
	10	0.11 \pm 0.02 ^B	0.13 \pm 0.02	0.12 \pm 0.01 ^B	0.13 \pm 0.03	0.13 \pm 0.02 ^B

Means followed by different lowercase letters (time points) or uppercase letters (treatments) are significantly different ($p < 0.05$). \dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t , venous admixture; DO₂, oxygen delivery; $\dot{V}O_2$, oxygen consumption; O₂ER, oxygen extraction ratio.

The study results identified significantly decreased CI in RTP10 when compared with animals anesthetized without tilting, and increased SVRI after 2 and 3 hours of anesthesia. The RTP is purported to result in a change in blood volume distribution to the periphery, thus decreasing CI and SI. Matzen et al. (1991) reported an initial 24% reduction in central blood volume followed by an 18% decrease in plasma and 68% increase in blood volume to the pelvic limbs in awake humans in RTP. Others suggested that this blood shift to the periphery may reduce venous return, preload and CO (Hazebroek & Bonjer 2006). Additionally, increased SVR may result in increased MAP, thus augmenting the afterload.

There are few studies of cardiovascular changes caused by RTP reported in the veterinary literature. No significant changes in CO were recorded in swine (weighing approximately 40 kg) anesthetized with tiletamine–zolazepam and isoflurane positioned in RTP when compared with dorsal and lateral recumbency (Shih et al. 2013). Similar results were observed when comparing 10° RTP with dorsal recumbency in swine during constant rate infusions of thiopental, fentanyl and pancuronium (Klopfenstein et al. 1998). However, when tilted to 20°, MAP, MPAP, PAOP, CVP, CO and hepatic blood flow significantly decreased (Klopfenstein et al. 1998).

RTP improves respiratory function in humans. This effect is ascribed to a decrease in the pressure of abdominal viscera on the diaphragm, thus improving

diaphragm mobility, C_{dyn}, functional residual capacity and decreasing PIP (Hazebroek & Bonjer 2006). Some studies in mechanically ventilated obese humans subjected to 30° RTP and inhalation anesthesia for bariatric surgery corroborate those facts. Significant improvements in respiratory variables and oxygenation have been found when compared with dorsal recumbency (Perilli et al. 2000, 2003). However, in the present study, RTP at 5 and 10° associated with spontaneous breathing did not improve ventilation or blood gas variables compared with dorsal recumbency.

Respiratory depression was present in all treatments, with decreased pH and increased PaCO₂ at all time points. This is consistent with similar results in other studies of spontaneously breathing bovine subjects under inhalation anesthesia regardless of recumbency (Hikasa et al. 1994; Arai et al. 2006; Offinger et al. 2012). By contrast, studies of cattle physically restrained in dorsal recumbency revealed no significant increases in PaCO₂ (Klein & Fisher 1988; Wagner et al. 1990; Meyer et al. 2010). This suggests that the increases in PaCO₂ in the animals in the present study are more likely to be the result of respiratory depression induced by sevoflurane rather than the body position. As expected, mechanical ventilation is effective treatment for hypercarbia (Greene et al. 2002; Vesal et al. 2011; Araújo et al. 2014) and it has been recommended that mechanical ventilation be implemented in cattle after 45 minutes of spontaneous breathing

during inhalation anesthesia (McDonnell & Kerr 2007). Of clinical relevance, the PaCO₂ values were substantially higher than the corresponding P_E'CO₂ values, emphasizing the limited value of P_E'CO₂ measurements for assessing adequacy of ventilation in spontaneously breathing cattle without a measurement of PaCO₂ for comparison.

In this study, \dot{Q}_s/\dot{Q}_t was significantly increased at T₀ in RTP10 compared with the other treatments, but had decreased to a value similar to RTP0 by 30 minutes and within the treatment was significantly smaller than T₀ at 120 minutes. A possible explanation for the initial higher shunt in RTP10 could be the abrupt impact of a 10° RTP on circulation immediately after the animals were positioned on the tilted table. This hypothesis is supported by the recommendation that gradual tilting is advisable when RTP is employed.

There was no difference between treatments in DO₂, even though the values were notably lower in RTP treatments, especially RTP10, compared with RTP0. According to Gutierrez & Theodorou (2012), DO₂ is quantitatively related to a number of factors, such as Hb, oxygen content, CO, preload, heart contractility, afterload and HR and thus one can suggest that the lower DO₂ in RTP10 could be related to the lower CI in that treatment.

No reference values of DO₂ have been found for the bovine species under inhalation anesthesia. However, one study reported DO₂ of 0.658 ± 0.129 L minute⁻¹ (411.3 ± 80.6 mL minute⁻¹ m²) in standing calves weighing approximately 65.2 kg (Picavet et al. 2004). Higher values of 1266 ± 103 mL minute⁻¹ (844.0 ± 68.7 mL minute⁻¹ m²) were measured in standing calves weighing 57.7 kg (Meyer et al. 2010). In calves physically restrained in dorsal recumbency, reported values for DO₂ were 1072–1125 mL minute⁻¹ (718–753 mL minute⁻¹ m²; Meyer et al. 2010). For comparison, DO₂ in dorsally recumbent isoflurane-anesthetized horses breathing spontaneously was 2.9–3.0 L minute⁻¹ (465–481 mL minute⁻¹ m²; Edner et al. 2005). The results of the present study are close to the findings of Meyer et al. (2010) using dorsally recumbent calves, and greater than the findings of Edner et al. (2005) using adult horses under inhalation anesthesia. This suggests that these results are within the expected range, since the differences in animal weights between the studies and the use of anesthesia could justify the differences.

In this study both $\dot{V}O_2$ and O₂ER were significantly decreased in RTP10 compared with RTP0 and RTP5. These findings suggest that tissue perfusion was

improved and cellular metabolism reduced in RTP10 compared with RTP0 and RTP5. One possible explanation for the lower $\dot{V}O_2$ and O₂ER in RTP10 is that respiratory effort was reduced during RTP10 compared with the other treatments. The cost of breathing to metabolism, although usually <5% of the total $\dot{V}O_2$, can increase up to 30% in humans with some degree of respiratory effort (Gutierrez & Theodorou 2012).

The SVO₂ also significantly increased in RTP10 compared with RTP5. This variable reflects the relationship between DO₂ and $\dot{V}O_2$, indicating the amount of oxygen that was not extracted and consumed by tissues and returned to the lungs, and can be used as an index of global oxygenation (Figueiredo et al. 2008). Values >70% correlate with an adequate DO₂ (Leach & Treacher 2002).

No reference values for $\dot{V}O_2$ were found for the bovine species during inhalation anesthesia. However, a $\dot{V}O_2$ of 476 ± 66 mL minute⁻¹ (319 ± 44 mL minute⁻¹ m²) was reported for standing calves, which decreased to 361–438 mL minute⁻¹ (242–293 mL minute⁻¹ m²) after the animals were restrained in dorsal recumbency (Meyer et al. 2010). The lower values for $\dot{V}O_2$ measured in the anesthetized steers in this study probably resulted from general anesthesia which decreases the metabolic rate and thus the $\dot{V}O_2$ (Gutierrez & Theodorou 2012). In addition, the $\dot{V}O_2$ and O₂ER measured in the present study were similar to those previously reported in dogs during inhalation anesthesia (Haskins 2007).

One limitation of the study design was the weight of the subjects (145 ± 26 kg). Ventilatory changes during anesthesia may be greater in heavier animals and the impact of RTP may have been better illustrated in the measured variables of larger cattle. Another limitation is that the RTP10 treatment was studied after the RTP0 and RTP5 experiments were completed. The lack of randomization of RTP10 may have influenced the results.

In conclusion, the reverse Trendelenburg position at 5° and 10°, compared with dorsal recumbency and no tilt, did not improve pulmonary variables in spontaneously breathing steers anesthetized with sevoflurane. However, tilting the surgical table at 10° worsened cardiovascular variables, increasing SVRI and decreasing CI.

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Authors' contributions

MAA: conception, study design, data collection and interpretation, preparation of manuscript. MD: study design, technical procedures, data collection and interpretation. JTW: study design, technical procedures, data collection and management. BPF: study design, data collection and interpretation, statistical analysis. CES: study design, technical procedures, data collection. VNLSO: study design, data interpretation, manuscript preparation. PSPS: conception, study design, data interpretation, preparation of manuscript.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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