

McLaren Print System Order

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WHAT IS OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA?

Obstructive Sleep Apnea is when a person stops breathing during sleep because his or her airway collapses and prevents air from getting into the lungs.

WHAT CAUSES THE AIRWAY TO COLLAPSE DURING SLEEP?

Several factors that can contribute to airway collapse are:

- Excess tissue in the back of the throat, such as large tonsils or uvula
- A decrease in the tone of the muscles holding the airway open
- Nasal obstruction
- Certain jaw or facial structures or attributes, such as recessed chin

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE OSA?

Statistics reveal that:

- 4 in 100 middle-aged men have OSA
- 2 in 100 middle-aged women have OSA
- Most OSA sufferers remain undiagnosed and untreated

SYMPTOMS

There are some ways to identify signs and symptoms associated with OSA:

- Do you snore?
- Do you choke or gasp for breath while you sleep?
- Have you ever told you that you stop breathing during sleep?
- Do you feel tired or fatigued after you sleep?
- Has your weight changed in the last 5 years?
- Have you ever nodded off or fallen asleep while driving a vehicle?

If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, you may suffer from OSA.

WHAT HAPPENS IF OSA IS NOT TREATED?

People who do not seek diagnosis and effective treatment for OSA can be at increased risk for:

- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Fatigue-related motor vehicle and work accidents
- Decreased quality of life

WHAT TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR OSA?

The most common treatment is CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure), pronounced see PEP. CPAP equipment treats OSA by providing a gentle flow of positive pressure air through a nasal mask to keep the airway open during sleep.

Other CPAP therapy

- Breathing becomes regular and snoring stops
- Oxygen level in the blood becomes normal
- Nocturnal sleep is restored
- Quality of life is improved
- Risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attack, stroke, and vehicular or work accidents is reduced
- Less common treatments include surgery and oral appliances. These treatments may be effective in certain individuals.

All treatments should include lifestyle modifications such as weight loss (if needed), exercise, and sufficient hours of sleep and avoidance of alcohol, sedatives, hypnotics, and tobacco.

Treatment of sleep apnea requires commitment to using the therapy regularly to the greatest benefits are to be recognized. Therapy is often more successful when you understand the disorder and the importance of regularly using the prescribed treatment. The more you know about your disorder, the easier it will be to discuss with your doctor any problems you may experience.

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Spec Info: