



Early Extubation Strategies.

Level of Evidence	Moderate
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Consensus Statement

Structured strategies to facilitate extubation within 6 hours of surgery have been shown to be safe and potentially hasten recovery after elective procedures.

Main Points

- Structured pathways targeting extubation within 6 hours after surgery are considered safe for many elective cardiac procedures.
- These strategies may shorten ICU and hospital length of stay when backed by standardized protocols and appropriate staffing.
- Evidence is strongest for routine low-risk cases, with selective extension to some higher-risk elective operations.

Key References

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2. Ellis MF, Pena H, Cadavero A, et al. Reducing intubation time in adult cardiothoracic surgery patients with a fast-track extubation protocol. *Crit Care Nurse.* 2021;41:14-24.
3. Grant MC, Isada T, Ruzankin P, et al. Johns Hopkins Enhanced Recovery Program for the Cardiac Surgery Working Group. Results from an enhanced recovery program for cardiac surgery. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2020;159:1393-1402.e7.
4. Serena G, Corredor C, Fletcher N, et al. Implementation of a nurse-led protocol for early extubation after cardiac surgery: a pilot study. *World J Crit Care Med.* 2019;8:28-35.

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