Abstract

The aim of the study is to assess the differences in the changing of the body heat in minor and major surgical operations through the core temperature and skin-surface temperature. Another aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of internal heat in the operating room. The sample of the study consists of 60 patients who were divided into two groups according to the type of operation: major & minor operation, each group consists of 30 patients selected purposively in the operating room in Al- Saddam General Hospital during the period from 15th August - 2001 to 10th January - 2002. The steps of the study include recording temperature from different places that included core temperature which can be measured from esophagus and skin-surface which can be measured from (chest, arm, thigh, calf). Intraoperative temperature is usually measured by a thermistor or thermocouple. In the present study, we have used (KONTRON MEDICAL) model 2000. The temperature was measured and recorded 5 minutes before administering the anesthesia agents. Then the temperature was measured every 5 minutes during the anesthesia until the end of the surgery. The same instrument was used and special list was utilized for such purpose. Content validity and reliability of the list for test & retest was achieved by exposing it to number of expertise. The results show that there are significant differences between pre & post induction of anesthesia. Another result is that the elderly are more exposed to hypothermia than young ones.