



**Post Polio Victoria Inc.**

Ross House  
247-251 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne 3000

Email:

[info@postpolio victoria.org.au](mailto:info@postpolio victoria.org.au)

Web:

[www.postpolio victoria.org.au](http://www.postpolio victoria.org.au)

Phone: 0431 702 137

ABN: 98 441 126 864

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**Please read before treating this patient who has a history of polio.**

Polio causes muscle weakness. This may include the diaphragm, larynx and other muscles involved in breathing. Therefore, while lung function is not affected by polio, people with post polio may have respiratory conditions eg sleep apnea.

Polio survivors may also have restriction in chest wall movement due to scoliosis and chest wall muscle weakness.

Oxygen therapy may not be tolerated as it requires breathing stamina which may be affected by these issues. Oxygen tolerance would need close monitoring to avoid carbon dioxide buildup. The patient should be propped and not completely lying flat so that there is less pressure to breathe against.

Ask the patient for specific information about the effects of polio on their muscular skeletal and respiratory health, and contact their specialist.

For more information go to [svhm.org.au](http://svhm.org.au) "*Aesthesia and Surgery: A guide for people with a history of polio*"

This information has been prepared by PPV and endorsed by a Medical Practitioner.