

# Sleep apnea tied to increased risk of panic disorder

July 24 2015

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(HealthDay)—Sleep apnea seems to be associated with increased risk of subsequent panic disorder, according to a study published in the July/August issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

Vincent Yi-Fong Su, M.D., from Taipei Veterans General Hospital in Taiwan, and colleagues examined the correlation between sleep apnea and subsequent [panic disorder](#) using data from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. Between 2000 and 2010, the authors enrolled 8,704 patients with sleep apnea and 34,792 age-, sex-, income-, and urbanization-matched controls without a prior diagnosis of panic disorder. Participants were observed through Dec. 31, 2010.

During a mean follow-up period of 3.92 years, the researchers found that 0.6 percent of all participants suffered from panic disorder, including 1.34 percent of the sleep apnea cohort and 0.42 percent of the control group. Patients with sleep apnea had a predisposition to develop panic disorder in Kaplan-Meier analysis. Among sleep apnea patients, the hazard ratio for subsequent panic disorder was 2.17 after multivariable adjustment.

"Clinicians should be aware of panic disorder as a comorbid condition in [sleep apnea](#) patients," the authors write. "Future prospective research is needed to confirm our finding and elucidate the possible underlying mechanisms.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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Citation: Sleep apnea tied to increased risk of panic disorder (2015, July 24) retrieved 10 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-07-apnea-tied-panic-disorder.html>

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