

Factors associated with extubation time in coronary artery bypass grafting patients

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Background and Objectives: Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide, with coronary artery disease being the most common. With increasing numbers of patients, Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) has become the most common operation in the world. Respiratory disorder is one of the most prevalent complications of CABG. Thus, weaning off the mechanical ventilation and extubation are of great clinical importance for these patients. Some post-operative problems also relate to the tracheal tube and mechanical ventilation. Therefore, an increase in this leads to an increase in the number of complications, length of hospital stay, and treatment costs. Since a large number of factors affect the post-operative period, the present study aims to identify the predictors of extubation time in CABG patients using casualty network analysis. **Method:** This longitudinal study was conducted on 800 over 18 year old patients who had undergone CABG surgery in three treatment centers affiliated to Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. The patients' information, including pre-operative, peri-operative, and post-operative variables, was retrospectively extracted from their medical records. Then, the data was comprehensively analyzed through path analysis using MPLUS-7.1 software. **Results:** The mean of extubation time was 10.27 ± 4.39 hours. Moreover, extubation time was significantly affected by packed cells during the Cardiopulmonary Bypass (CPB), packed cells after CPB, inotrope use on arrival at ICU, mean arterial pressure 1st ICU, packed cells 1st ICU, platelets 1st ICU, Blood Urea Nitrogen 1st ICU, and hematocrit 1st ICU. **Conclusion:** Considering all of the factors under investigation, some peri-operative and post-operative factors had significant effects. Therefore, considering the post-operative factors is important for designing a treatment plan and evaluating patients' prognosis .

31 **Abstract**

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33 worldwide, with coronary artery disease being the most common. With increasing numbers of
34 patients, Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) has become the most common operation in
35 the world. Respiratory disorder is one of the most prevalent complications of CABG. Thus,
36 weaning off the mechanical ventilation and extubation are of great clinical importance for these
37 patients. Some post-operative problems also relate to the tracheal tube and mechanical ventilation.
38 Therefore, an increase in this leads to an increase in the number of complications, length of hospital
39 stay, and treatment costs. Since a large number of factors affect the post-operative period, the
40 present study aims to identify the predictors of extubation time in CABG patients using casualty
41 network analysis.

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43 undergone CABG surgery in three treatment centers affiliated to Shiraz University of Medical
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48 significantly affected by packed cells during the Cardiopulmonary Bypass (CPB), packed cells
49 after CPB, inotrope use on arrival at ICU, mean arterial pressure 1st ICU, packed cells 1st ICU,
50 platelets 1st ICU, Blood Urea Nitrogen 1st ICU, and hematocrit 1st ICU.

51 **Conclusion:** Considering all of the factors under investigation, some peri-operative and post-
52 operative factors had significant effects. Therefore, considering the post-operative factors is
53 important for designing a treatment plan and evaluating patients' prognosis.

54 **Keywords:** Coronary Artery Bypass, Intubation, Risk factors

55 **1. Introduction**

56 Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death all around the world. Among these diseases,
57 Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) has been introduced as the first and most common cause of
58 mortality in all age groups (1-3). According to the 2010 report by the American Heart Association
59 (AHA), CAD accounted for 1 in every 6 deaths in the U.S. In addition, 379,555 Americans died
60 as a result of CAD in 2010 (2). Nowadays, CAD is one of the most prevalent diseases resulting in
61 hospitalization in the U.S. In U.S, more than 13 million individuals suffer from CAD (4). With an
62 increase in the number of incidents of CAD, Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) has
63 become one of the most common operations worldwide, such that almost 500,000 CABG
64 operations are performed in the U.S. every year (5, 6).

65 Respiratory disorder is one of the most prevalent complications of CABG (7-11). The incident rate
66 of respiratory disorders after CABG has been estimated to be 5-20%, which leads to an annual cost
67 of 2 million dollars (12). Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation (PMV) after CABG can increase
68 morbidity and mortality rates as well as treatment costs; it may also decrease the quality of life (7-
69 10). Advances in science and technology in the field of cardiac surgery have resulted in new
70 techniques for treatment of these disorders. These techniques include new anesthesia methods,
71 open heart surgery without using Cardiopulmonary Bypass (CPB), and less invasive CABG which

72 have somewhat reduced the duration of surgery, extubation time, length of ICU stay,
73 complications, and costs (13).

74 The present study aims at identifying pre-operative, peri-operative, and post-operative risk factors
75 that relate to extubation time and it aims to determine their effectiveness in the prognosis of
76 patients for increasing the care quality and improving CABG outcomes.

77 **2. Methods**

78 This observational, multicenter study was conducted after gaining approval of the Ethics
79 Committee and Research Vice-Chancellor of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences for the
80 collection of information from patients' medical records. The patients over 18 years old who had
81 undergone open heart surgery in Shahid Faghihi, Al-Zahra, and Kowsar hospitals affiliated to
82 Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (Shiraz southern of Iran) from April to September 2014
83 were enrolled into the study. The patients' pre-operative, peri-operative, and post-operative
84 information was retrospectively extracted from their medical records and entered into the study
85 checklist by two trained anesthesia staff of the cardiac operating room (Table 1). In order to ensure
86 the accuracy of the information, the data extracted from 10% of the records was reviewed and
87 matched with the related checklists. The records were re-checked in case of ambiguity. 800 cases
88 overall were entered into the study.

89 In this study, the dependent variable was the length of intubation, which was considered to be the
90 period between the patients' arrival at the ICU and their extubation (in hours).

91 In the recent decades, many attempts have been made towards comprehensive investigation of
92 these variables. One of the most promising methods in this respect is structural equations and
93 multivariate analyses (14-17).

94 Investigation of the complex relationships among variables requires utilization of methods, which
95 not only analyze K independent variables and N dependent variables simultaneously, but can also
96 show their mutual effects in a theory-based structure. One such method is a complex mathematical
97 and statistical combination of multivariate regression analysis; i.e., path analysis, which analyzes
98 the variables collected in a complex system (14-16, 18-20). In the present study, path analysis was
99 done using MPLUS-7.1 software to achieve the objectives and evaluate the intended theoretical
100 model.

101 During a literature review, it was found that path analysis was performed over 5 stages, namely
102 model formulation, model identification, model estimation, model evaluation, and model
103 modification. Moreover, Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), Tucker-Lewis
104 Index (TLI), Comparative Fit Index (CFI), and Square Residual Standardized Root Mean (SRMR)
105 were used to assess the appropriateness of the designed model (21). Pearson and Spearman
106 correlation coefficients were used for univariate analyses and the means were compared by an
107 independent sample t-test. $P < 0.05$ was considered as statistically significant in all tests.

108 In order to carry out path analysis, first a theoretical model should be designed based on the
109 previous findings and researchers' assumptions to provide the basis for analyses. The theoretical
110 model based on pre-operative, peri-operative, and post-operative stages has been presented in
111 Figure 1, where the effects of different variables on the dependent variable (extubation time) can
112 be determined.

113 **3. Results**

114 This longitudinal study was conducted on 800 patients who had undergone CABG surgery. The
115 results showed that the patients' ages ranged from 20 to 89 years old with a mean age of

116 59.26+11.60 years. Most of the patients 483 (60.4%) were male. The mean of extubation time was
117 10.27+4.39 hours. The patients' basic characteristics have been presented in Table 2. In addition,
118 the results of the univariate analysis of qualitative and quantitative risk factors of the study have
119 been shown in Tables 3 and 2.

120 As Table 2 depicts, some factors correlated significantly with extubation time. The results of
121 univariate analysis also indicated the great importance of pre-operative and post-operative risk
122 factors.

123 The results of the independent sample t-test (Table 3) revealed that the mean of extubation time
124 was higher in females and in patients with diabetes, hypertension, and Chronic Obstructive
125 Pulmonary Disease (COPD), but the difference was not statistically significant ($P>0.05$).
126 Conversely, the mean of extubation time was significantly higher in the patients who had received
127 inotrope compared to those who had not ($P<0.001$). In addition, the mean age of the patients who
128 had received inotrope was significantly higher in comparison to those who had not ($P<0.037$).
129 Considering multiple relations and the probability of the impact of confounding factors, the
130 interpretation of univariate analysis results should be done with due caution. In order to control
131 the effects of the confounding factors and assess the multiple associations, path analysis was used
132 and the results were presented in Table 4. In path analysis, direct, indirect, and total effects can be
133 evaluated and confounding effects can be controlled. Therefore, the results can be applied with
134 greater certainty. The variables with one significant effect (direct, indirect, or total) have been
135 shown in Table 4. It should be noted that total effects are more important on the basis of decision-
136 making. Furthermore, values related to effect size of the study's variables are in fact the
137 standardized coefficient, which is used for similarity and comparability of the measurement units

138 of all the variables. Interpretation of this coefficient is the same as that of the regression coefficient
139 and its value varies between -1 and +1.

140 According to the results of path analysis, presented in Table 4, packed cells during CPB and packed
141 cells after CPB (among peri-operative variables) and inotrope use on 1h ICU (arrival to ICU),
142 mean arterial pressure on 1h ICU, pack cell 1h ICU, platelet 1h ICU, Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)
143 1h ICU, and hematocrit 1st ICU (among post-operative variables) were effective on extubation
144 time ($P<0.05$). Yet, some of the risk factors had significant direct or indirect effects on extubation
145 time, which were modified in computation of the total effects.

146 The final model of the relationships among the factors affecting the dependent variable (extubation
147 time) and their effect paths have been presented in Figure 2. It should be mentioned that the path
148 coefficients representing the direct effects, and standard deviation of each variable in each
149 corresponding path, have been shown in this model. Mediator variables have also been determined.

150 Based on the software output, RMSEA=0.036, CI 0.90 (0.021-0.046), CFI=0.910, TLI=0.901, and
151 SRMR=0.016. Considering the proposed values for decision-making (TLI/CFI~1 and
152 SRMR/RMSEA<0.05) (21), the designed model had acceptable appropriateness.

153 According to the number of variables of the study, to ensure enough power of the study, using the
154 R software for power analysis, the results showed that the power of the study was 0.81, indicating
155 its adequacy are the recommended amounts.

156 **4. Discussion**

157 In the present study, none of the pre-operative factors had significant impacts on extubation time.
158 Among these variables, sex and previous history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and
159 hemoglobin pre-operation had significant direct or indirect effects on the variable under study.

160 However, considering various effects with different paths and directions, their total effects were
161 not statistically significant (Table 4). In the study by Suematsu et al. (22), the results of univariate
162 analysis indicated that none of the preoperative factors (age, sex, Body Mass Index (BMI),
163 smoking, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, COPD, renal disease, liver disease, and EF) had
164 significant effects. Age was only found to be significantly effective in multivariate analysis.
165 Similarly, Christian et al. (12) reported that COPD, diabetes, hypertension, sex, and BMI had
166 significant effects in univariate analysis of the pre-operative variables, but only sex was
167 significantly effective in multivariate analysis.

168 The findings of univariate analysis in the current study showed that, among the peri-operative
169 factors, anesthesia duration, pre-anesthesia mean arterial pressure, total pump time, inotrope use
170 before CPB, inotrope use during CPB, inotrope use after CPB, packed cells after CPB, packed
171 cells during CPB, and lowest temperature on CPB had significant effects. However, only packed
172 cells during CPB and packed cells after CPB had significant effects in the final model (Table 4).

173 In the research by Christian et al. (12), the results of univariate analysis of peri-operative factors
174 demonstrated that anesthesia time, operation time, lowest temperature, and transfusion were
175 significantly effective. In multivariate analysis, however, only anesthesia time had a significant
176 effect.

177 Considering the post-operative factors, the results of univariate analysis demonstrated the
178 significant effects of inotrope use on arrival to ICU, inotrope use on 1h ICU, mean arterial pressure
179 on ICU admission, urinary output 1h ICU, packed cells 1h ICU, platelets 1h ICU, creatinine 1st
180 ICU, BUN 1st ICU, and hematocrit 1st ICU. Only inotrope use on 1h ICU, mean arterial pressure
181 on 1h ICU, packed cells 1h ICU, platelets 1h ICU, BUN 1st ICU, and hematocrit 1st ICU had
182 significant effects in path analysis (Table 4).

183 Other studies have also revealed the impacts of transfusion and inotrope use on extubation time
184 (8-10, 12, 22, 23). Up to now, there has been much debate on the risks of packed red blood cell
185 transfusion. For instance, a review study by David and Gerber (24) demonstrated the high
186 prevalence of packed red blood cell transfusion, post-operative mechanical ventilation, and its
187 related respiratory disorders in CABG patients, which is in line with the results of the present
188 study. Similarly, Vamvakas and Carven (25) conducted a study on 416 CABG patients to assess
189 the effects of packed red blood cell transfusion and platelet, plasma, and total fluid volumes on
190 post-operative mechanical ventilation. The study's results revealed that only packed red blood cell
191 transfusion was significantly associated with post-operative mechanical ventilation.

192 Evidence has indicated that some factors, such as age, sex, respiratory status, and BMI, impact on
193 extubation time in patients undergoing open heart surgery (4, 9). Yet, contradictory results have
194 been obtained in this regard from different studies. For instance, some studies have shown the role
195 of age and sex, but some others have not. The difference in the results could be attributed to
196 differences in methodologies, statistical methods, and sample sizes in various studies. Moreover,
197 the physiological factors under investigation have multiple relations and may cause both positive
198 and negative effects. Therefore, not accurately controlling the confounding variables could deflect
199 the results. The researchers of the present study considered a large number of pre-operative, peri-
200 operative, and post-operative factors, which were thought to have probable effect, and considered
201 all the associations as a casualty network, and took all the mutual effects into account to provide a
202 proper interpretation of the relationships. In complex relations, each variable can play the role of
203 dependent and independent variables at the same time, and path analysis has the capability of such
204 presuppositions (16, 19, 21). Thus, in addition to having effect through different paths, a factor

205 can have both positive and negative effects in a network. In this case, the outcome of these effects
206 determines the factor's final impact on the final outcome.

207 The findings of our study showed that utilization of blood products and inotrope could increase
208 extubation time, while the measures increasing the patients' mean arterial pressure and hematocrit
209 in ICU, could decrease this time in the CABG patients.

210 Some researchers have referred to the impact of differences between the surgeon and
211 anesthesiologist on the operation outcome. However, this was not taken into account in this study
212 due to some limitations. Hence, further studies with larger sample sizes are recommended to be
213 conducted in other centers using similar and even more advanced analytical methods in order to
214 gain a deeper understanding of extubation time prognostic factors. In addition, future studies are
215 suggested to be performed on the complications of delayed extubation, its effective factors, and
216 contribution of each factor to different stages of the process to prevent unpleasant outcomes.

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221 cooperation in data collection.

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297 Table 1. Relevant pre-, perio- and post-operative data collected for all cases

| Preoperative data | Perioperative data | post-operative data |
|---|--|--|
| Sex ,Age, Body Mass Index(BMI), Smoking , Addiction , Diabetes Mellitus(DM), Hypertension(HTN), Hyperlipidemia (HLP) , Ejection Fraction(EF) , Hemoglobin Preoperation, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases(COPD), Hematocrit Preoperation, Creatinine Preoperation , Blood Urea Nitrogen(BUN)Preoperation , Prior myocardial infarction (MI) (< 30 days) | Anesthesia Duration , Operation Duration , Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) pre Anesthesia, MAP before cardiopulmonary bypass(CPB), Inotrope use Before CPB , Total Pump Time , Cross Clamp Time , Urinary Output before CPB, Hemofilter Volume, Inotrope use During CPB , Inotrope use After CPB , MAP at end of Operation, Pack Cell after CPB, Platelet after CPB , activated clotting time/ second, Urinary output during CPB , Pack Cell during CPB , Lowest Temperature on CPB | Inotrope use arrival to ICU, MAP admission ICU , Urinary output first 1h ICU, Pack Cell 1h ICU, Platelet 1h ICU, Creatinine 1st ICU (arrival to ICU), Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) 1st ICU (arrival to ICU), hematocrit 1st ICU (arrival to ICU), |

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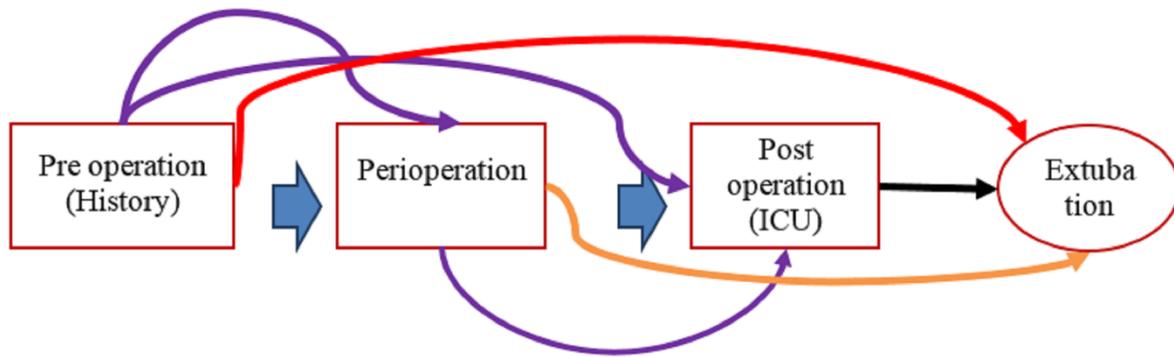
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311 Figure1-Theoretical model of correlation between undertaken Phases with target output

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332 Table2. Baseline quantitative characteristics of the patients and univariate analysis result with extubation
333 time

| Risk factors | Mean±SD | Pearson Correlation Coefficient | P-Value |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Age* | 59.26±11.60 | 0.25 | <0.001 |
| Body Mass Index* | 25.75±4.18 | -0.17 | <0.001 |
| Ejection Fraction* | 49.19±10.51 | -0.09 | 0.01 |
| Hemoglobin Preoperation | 11.81±1.78 | -0.07 | 0.07 |
| Hematocrit Preoperation* | 35.04±5.37 | -0.08 | 0.03 |
| Creatinine Preoperation* | 1.08±0.35 | 0.12 | 0.00 |
| BUN Preoperation* | 17.54±6.29 | 0.20 | <0.001 |
| Anesthesia Duration* | 4.49±0.73 | 0.08 | 0.02 |
| Operation Duration | 3.08±0.70 | 0.06 | 0.12 |
| Mean Arterial Pressure pre Anesthesia* | 99.93±14.28 | -0.09 | 0.01 |
| MAP before CPB | 71.25±12.21 | -0.01 | 0.82 |
| Total Pump Time* | 70.38±20.71 | 0.10 | 0.01 |
| Cross Clamp Time | 40.12±13.55 | 0.03 | 0.39 |
| Urinary Output before CPB | 240.54±251.94 | -0.01 | 0.88 |
| Hemofilter Volume | 1588.74±776.33 | 0.02 | 0.57 |
| MAP at end of Operation | 75.93±9.60 | -0.06 | 0.07 |
| Pack Cell after CPB* | 0.48±0.60 | 0.11 | 0.00 |
| Platelet after CPB | 0.06±0.51 | 0.05 | 0.19 |
| Urinary Output during CPB | 532.18±394.18 | -0.06 | 0.12 |
| Pack Cell during CPB* | 0.88±0.85 | 0.14 | <0.001 |
| Lowest Temperature on CPB* | 33.04±1.16 | -0.08 | 0.03 |
| MAP admission ICU* | 79.48±14.77 | -0.18 | <0.001 |
| MAP on 6h ICU* | 79.10±10.67 | -0.15 | <0.001 |
| Urinary Output first 6h ICU* | 1403.67±614.89 | -0.16 | <0.001 |
| Platelet 1h ICU* | 0.25±0.99 | 0.12 | 0.00 |
| Creatinine 1st ICU (arrival to ICU)* | 1.00±0.31 | 0.17 | <0.001 |
| BUN 1st ICU (arrival to ICU)* | 16.15±5.91 | 0.23 | <0.001 |
| Hct 1st ICU (arrival to ICU)* | 31.85±4.37 | -0.15 | <0.001 |
| Extubation hours after arrival in ICU | 10.27±4.39 | - | - |

334 *Statistically significant (p-value< 0.05),

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338 Table3. Baseline qualitative characteristics of the patients and univariate analysis result with extubation
339 time

| 340 | Risk factors | Mean±SD | P-Value |
|-----|--|------------------------|----------------|
| 341 | Sex(Male/Female) | 10.1±4.18 /10.52±4.68 | 0.186 |
| 342 | Smoking(yes/no) | 9.87±4.32 /10.42±4.40 | 0.116 |
| 342 | Addiction(yes/no) | 9.71±4.37 /10.37±4.38 | 0.124 |
| 343 | Diabetes Mellitus(yes/no) | 10.31±4.62 /10.24±4.27 | 0.824 |
| 343 | Hypertension(yes/no) | 10.48±4.33 /9.91±4.47 | 0.076 |
| 344 | hyperlipidemia(yes/no) | 10.22±4.69 /10.31±4.08 | 0.762 |
| 345 | chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases(yes/no) | 10.43±5.03 /10.26±4.36 | 0.831 |
| 345 | Any arrhythmia(yes/no) | 10.49±4.22 /10.24±4.40 | 0.629 |
| 346 | MI< 30 days(yes/no) | 9.65±4.43 /10.35±4.37 | 0.142 |
| 346 | Inotrope use Before CPB(yes/no)* | 13.15±6.33/10.12±4.21 | <0.001 |
| 347 | Inotrope use During CPB(yes/no)* | 10.89±5.14/9.89±3.83 | 0.002 |
| 348 | Inotrope use After CPB(yes/no)* | 10.61±4.71/9.68±3.71 | 0.003 |
| 348 | Inotrope use arrival to ICU(yes/no)* | 10.72±4.67/9.46±3.51 | <0.001 |
| 349 | Inotrope use on 6h ICU(yes/no)* | 11.83±5.12/ 9.32±3.5 | <0.001 |

350 *Statistically significant (p-value< 0.05)

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Table 4. Standardized Direct, Indirect and total risk factors effects on Extubation time

| Risk factor | Direct effect | P-Value | Indirect effect | P-Value | Total effect | P-Value |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Sex | 0.014 | 0.779 | 0.056 | 0.011* | 0.070 | 0.123 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | -0.094 | 0.017* | 0.019 | 0.037* | -0.076 | 0.058 |
| Pack Cell during CPB | 0.191 | <0.001* | -0.017 | 0.105* | 0.174 | 0.001* |
| Hemoglobin Preoperation | 0.126 | 0.388 | -0.099 | 0.020* | 0.027 | 0.853 |
| Pack Cell after CPB | 0.102 | 0.008* | -0.006 | 0.254 | 0.096 | 0.013* |
| Hypertension | 0.035 | 0.403 | 0.021 | 0.027* | 0.056 | 0.181 |
| Bun1stICU | 0.128 | 0.019* | 0.02 | 0.325 | 0.147 | 0.004* |
| HCT1stICU | -0.091 | 0.038* | - | - | -0.091 | 0.038* |
| Inotrope use arrival to ICU | 0.129 | 0.039* | - | - | 0.129 | 0.039* |
| MAP6hICU | -0.123 | 0.002* | - | - | -0.123 | 0.002* |
| Platelet 6h ICU | 0.119 | 0.003* | - | - | 0.119 | 0.003* |
| Pack Cell 6h ICU | 0.115 | 0.007* | - | - | 0.115 | 0.007* |

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*statistically significant (p-value< 0.05)

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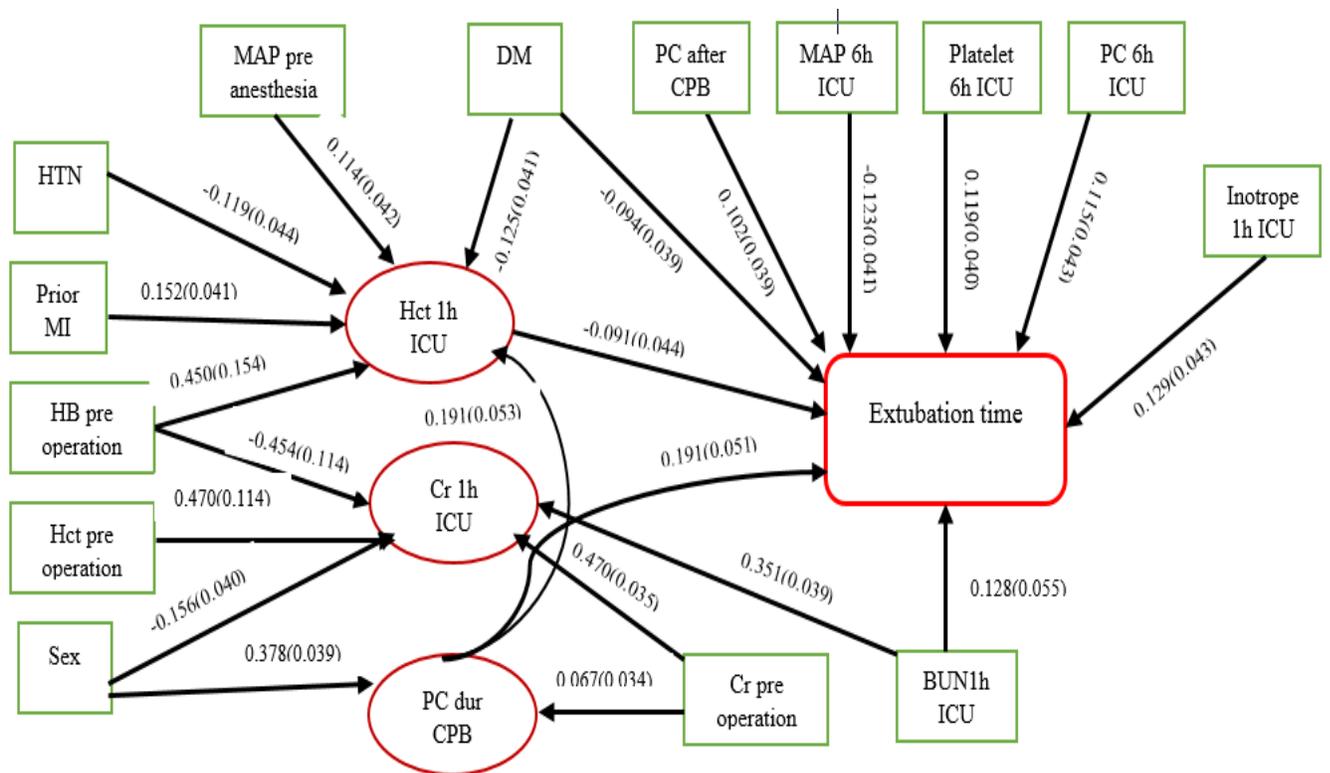
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Figure2. Causal network diagram of Influenced factors of Extubation time

(RMSEA=0.036, CFI=0.910, TLI=0.901, SRMR=0.016)

*The arrow indicator values are standardized direct effects with standard deviation

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