

Ventilation Air Distribution in Hospital Operating Room-Review

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Abstract: *Hospital, healthcare facilities, machine shops, manufacturing and chemical processing facilities, and other commercial occupancies have diverse indoor environment due to the different comfort and health needs of its occupants. Currently, most ventilation studies revolve around specialized areas such as operating rooms and isolation rooms. This paper focuses on ventilation air distribution in hospital operating room, taking into account ventilation types, ventilation of operation room, important criterias and the importance of air distribution. As identified during the review, there are attempts to find the optimum ventilation air distribution for the hospital operating room. Therefore, it is highlighted that specific ventilation air distribution studies along with engineering criterias are required in addressing the ventilation requirements for the hospital operating room.*

Keywords: Fluent, Ventilation, Air conditioning, Air distribution, Operating room

1. Introduction

UP to 90% of a typical person's time is spent indoors and a large fraction of that time is spent in a residential or commercial environment. People therefore expect the indoor environment to be as comfortable as possible. Thermal comfort is generally defined as that condition of mind which expresses satisfaction with the thermal environment. Dissatisfaction may be caused by the body being too warm or too cold as a whole, or by unwanted heating or cooling of a particular part of the body [1]. So, ventilation of building has become one of the main topics in building services now. In the past, the building was designed to be naturally ventilated. The building had high ceilings and the location and size of windows were in such away as to avoid excess heat from sun radiation, and to supply enough air in [2]. The ventilation of building services several purposes to remove or supply heat to maintain a comfortable temperature level and to supply the room with a given amount of fresh air. Therefore, the practice of creating a controlled climatic in indoor spaces (e.g. in homes, schools, hospitals, hotels, commercial offices and even factories) is no longer luxury, but an essential part of the modern living and working. The four important factors for human comfort are temperature, humidity, purity and motion of the air [3]. The velocity and temperature characteristics of air within the occupied zones of a building are important factors in determining the comfort level and indoor air quality experienced by the spaces' occupants. Most heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems can provide a certain level of air motion and maintain the desired average of temperature and humidity in conditioned spaces [4]. For instance, excellent distribution of air within a room can compensate to a large extent for a minor deficiency in equipment capacity. But, no level of excellence in the refrigeration system can compensate for a poorly designed room air distribution. The object of air distribution is to create an acceptable combination of temperature, humidity (the change of the

relative humidity from 30% to 70% will cause little discomfort human [5]), and air motion in the occupied zone [6]. However, there can be areas of excessive air drafts and excessive room air temperature variation, which can be discomforting for the building occupants. Similarly, parts of the space which experience low air flows may have locally high pollutant levels and low ventilation effectiveness [4]. Understanding indoor air distribution is essential to the design of ventilation systems and control of indoor thermal and air quality conditions. The thermal comfort of occupants is directly affected by indoor air velocity. Consequently, more and more buildings are being equipped with mechanical ventilation or air-conditioning systems. Acceptable indoor conditions for the design of air-conditioning and other thermal control systems require accurate prediction of the air flow in occupied spaces[1]. For the design and selection of suitable and effective building ventilation systems, information on the distributions of air flow velocities and temperatures as well as the heating and cooling loads for a given room geometry is needed[4]. In recent years numbers of new ventilation systems and strategies have been introduced to improve air quality, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency. This has changed the nature of current airflow problem. Air movement is one of the most important parameters influencing the sense of comfort, and yet until recently little attention was given to this aspect in ventilation and air conditioning design. Air movement in a building is caused either by a temperature difference between the warm and cold zone (natural convection), or by mechanical systems (forced convection), or by combination of both. This movement is influenced by the dimensions of the room, air infiltration, the number of exterior wall, size of window, size and location of barrier, the amount of insulation, and the outside of weather conditions [3].

2. Ventilation Types

Ventilation is defined as “controlled supply and exhaust of air to improve the indoor air quality” [7]. There are four different ventilation principles used to control the air distribution within ventilation rooms [3]:

1. Unidirectional flow ventilation (Piston ventilation): this method creates a vertical or horizontal, unidirectional flow by supplying air to the room in a parallel manner from the ceiling to the floor or from one side wall to the other. Contaminated air is expelled by piston effect from up wind to downwind, so that the occupied region is a clean region. This method is used mainly for industrial or laboratory clean rooms.
2. Mixing ventilation: This method is widely used in offices and commercial building. In mixing ventilation system, a diffuser is often installed in wall near the ceiling or in the ceiling. Conditioned air is normally supplied to air devices with velocities much higher than those acceptable in the occupied zone. The region between the ceiling and the occupied zone then serves as an entrainment region. Both the main jet velocity and temperature difference between the conditioned air and room air become smaller because of the entrainment of the room air. The total air (the mixture of the discharge air and entrained air) then dilutes contaminant in the occupied zone in order to achieve an acceptable air quality; the occurrence of the draught is minimized. In addition if natural convection and radiation are significant, this air generates a counteraction of the natural convection effects within the room.
3. Displacement ventilation: In this method, the low-temperature air is supplied with low-velocity diffuser located at or close to floor level. Governed by buoyancy force, the flow pattern in a room can be shown to be a well-defined air transport within the convection plumes from the lower part of the room to the upper level. If natural convection and radiation occur, the air diffusion system should incorporate the effect of the natural convection and radiation. The temperature gradient is relatively stable and not very sensitive to disturbances by people or door opening. The aim of this ventilation system is to create supply air conditions in the whole room. Displacement ventilation is traditionally used in industrial building where special indoor contaminant control is required. Recently its application has been extended to office building, restaurant and lecture halls.
4. Local exhaust ventilation: This method of ventilation is based on the principle of capturing contaminant at source before it spreads into the room air. Local exhaust ventilation capture device or extract hood is used and its shape and characteristics are important element of this method of ventilation. It is the most effective method of contaminate extraction and it is widely used in industrial ventilation particularly where localized source of hazardous contaminants are present. It is rarely used in commercial or public building except perhaps in some rooms where certain processes are present, such as cooking.

3. Ventilation of Operation Room

Health care facilities, machine shops, manufacturing and chemical processing facilities, and other commercial occupancies require ventilation and air conditioning for thermal comfort as well as for the removal of contaminants and other pollutions. A good design of ventilation and air conditioning provides a healthy and comfortable environment for people such as patients, workers, and visitors. Poorly ventilated workspaces not only make people feel uncomfortable but also may make them infected or intoxicated since the likelihood of air borne pathogens or other kinds of toxic chemicals is quite high. The design of a heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system for an operating room is aimed to prevent the risk of infections during surgical operations while maintaining an adequate comfort condition for the patient and the surgical staff. Proper indoor comfort condition and indoor air quality are prerequisites for securing a safe and suitable environment for an operating room [8].

4. Important Criteria

There are standards to guide the design of air-conditioning systems for operating rooms around the world among which the American Institute of Architects has guidelines for design and construction of hospitals and health care facilities in the USA [9]. From HVAC design point of view, ASHRAE Applications Handbook [10] recommends general guidelines for an operating room that temperature should be kept in the range of 68–76_F (20–24_C), relativity humidity should be kept between 50% and 60%, positive air pressure should be maintained, and all air exhausted with no recirculation is preferred.

5. The Importance of Air Distribution

In the last decade the drive to produce more energy efficient buildings led to design of highly insulated buildings that are air tight. Since then the need for mechanical ventilation increased considerably. However, incorrect application of mechanical ventilation systems may lead to the presence of badly ventilated space or to high energy demand. To avoid incorrect application of mechanical system, the study of heat, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) became necessary. To save energy the distribution of inflow air is to be studied carefully, because incorrect utilization may lead to inadequate ventilation (stagnant zones of air) or draught (high velocity regions). The main trend (most popularity and use) of ventilation types are mixing ventilation and displacement ventilation [2]. The contaminant and the particle dispersion and distribution in a room is very important for creating and maintaining a healthy indoor environment, this is one of the reasons.

So the reason that is related with this but in multi zones is the terrorist attacks, The attacks on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center and the following anthrax cases spawned serious concerns about various possible terrorist attacks in built environment, including releases of Chemical, Biological, Radiological Warfare Agents (CBRWA) in buildings and subways. The anthrax attacks through letters in

Florida, New York City, and Washington, DC caused 5 deaths and affected over 20 other people in 2001. In March of 1995, the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo used Sarin to attack the Tokyo subway system that caused 12 deaths and hundreds hospitalized. Once entering a building, CBRWA could disperse quickly in the whole building through the HVAC system. Therefore, to design a built environment that can protect its occupants from these threats, it is crucial to know how a CBRWA is dispersed after its release [11]. The accurate prediction of flow behavior within a room may significantly improve heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) design technique.

The need for predicting flow parameters such as velocity and temperature, leads the designers to the field of numerical simulation. In CFD (computational fluid dynamic), the designer has the capability to design and redesign a room over and over again, at relatively low price compared with full scale experimentation. However the use of CFD is now maturing in this field [2].

6. Numerical Simulations

Qingyan et al. (1991) [12], analyzed the errors caused by interpolation for five levels of approximation are proposed with different changes of success from existing cases for assessing indoor air flow, air quality and thermal comfort in an office. A sensitivity study was provided to determine the influence of several boundary conditions on indoor air diffusion. They conducted numerically a low-Reynolds-number $k-\epsilon$ model. It can be concluded that the interpolation errors caused by the variations of solar radiation, window size, heat source location due to lighting, and the surface temperatures of interior walls are small. They obtained the air distribution vectors and temperature contours by effect of these variations in $(4.5 \times 4.5 \times 2.5 \text{ m})$ room with inlet a flat at the earth level in the wall and the outlet at the ceiling level in the same wall. But it is difficult to estimate the errors introduced by the variations of furniture location and size.

Srebric et al. (2002) [13], found a simplified methods that can be used to describe flow and thermal information from eight commonly used diffusers. The eight different diffusers are: nozzle diffuser, slot (linear) diffuser, valve diffuser, displacement diffuser, round ceiling diffuser, square ceiling diffuser, vortex diffuser, and grille diffuser. They used the box and momentum methods. The corresponding experimental data of airflow and thermal distributions from an environmental chamber had been used to validate the numerical methods.

Mora et al. (2002) [14], have investigated a detailed model of airflow in large spaces with an algebraic multirole infiltration model to describe pollutant transport and coupled air flows within and between complex buildings and large spaces. They compare the ability of both zonal and coarse-grid $k-\epsilon$ RANS (Reynolds Average Navier-Stokes) models to predict air flows and temperature profiles in a two-dimensional building zone. Both predictions are compared with conventional $k-\epsilon$ RANS models results and experimental data under mixed convection conditions. Both classes of models are able to assess temperature profiles in the room. So, they concluded that zonal models can be a

suitable tool to estimate thermal comfort in a ventilated room, when details of airflow are required coarse grid $k-\epsilon$ RANS models can give quicker velocity profiles estimates than conventional $k-\epsilon$ RANS models.

Xu et al. (2003) [15], described the method for characterizing swirling air diffusers for CFD simulation of the room airflows. The room is 5.1m in length, 3.6m in width and 2.6m in height. The swirling diffusers used in the under-floor air distribution system can be simulated by unstructured grids including the in-duct airflow. The simulation temperature results also showed the vertical temperature difference exists in the room under the influence of buoyancy force, but the vertical stratification is much weaker than that in the case of low velocity displacement ventilation. Near the floor level, PD (percentage dissatisfied) is reduced with the supply temperature increased, and the influence of inlet velocity is also another important factor to PD.

Pedro et al. (2004) [16], presented the advantages, applicability and potentialities of CFD in building design. The advantages and the performance of (two) commercial CFD codes (PHOENICS® and FLUENT®) and an academic CFD code (CLIMA 3D) develop for this purpose were evaluated. The codes were applied to find typical situations of the airflow in buildings and the predictions were compared with experimental results. The errors obtained with all the computational models should be attributed to several simplifications, as well as to mathematical and numerical models and fundamentally to the considered boundary conditions. The main intention of this work was to investigate the difference in modeling physical phenomena with academic self-programmed and commercial codes despite the errors of the experimental in the measurements. These commercial codes, by its easiness, simplicity and versatility of use, constitute a powerful tool for the simulation of the most diverse engineering physical phenomena. The numerical predictions obtained by these codes were associated with a degree of uncertainty, resulting from the definition of the problem, to the specifications and subsequent simplifications of the mathematical and numerical models considered for the description of the physical phenomenon.

Xiaojiang et al. (2005) [17], have investigated how to remove the dust (as that during processes of burnishing) and pollutants in large space, effectively when the dust source changeable in workshop. So the investigator use the software of PHOENICS to simulate stratified air distribution of three-dimensions turbulence in large space $(63 \times 33 \times 17 \text{ m})$ with many kind of interface parameters as height of air supply outlets, height of exhaust outlets and their locations (one side or bilateral), height and location of barrier or not found. The equations usages are conservation, momentum equations and energy equation and the turbulence model is $k-\epsilon$. The result was compared with empirical equation, and then concluded that when the height of supply outlets is same as that the exhaust outlets, jet flow can be maintained at steady state and separate space more effectively and the circulation of air between the walls and the barriers can be kept the dust low.

Yiwen Jian (2006) [18], carried out a numerical simulation to calculate indoor air patterns, which include angles of inlet direction and induced ratios in a typical official room, a 290m² area's office, which with one-side outward wall. There are eight single-side outlets and eight double-side outlets of HILT-type cold air diffusers that are set on ceiling. Return air inlets set on ceiling too. A new zero-equation turbulence model was introduced in this simulation. The disperse method is finite volume method. The SIMPLE arithmetic is adopted as the simulating platform. By changing inlet direction or by changing inlet induced ratio (the induced ratio of inlet determines the air mix temperature), the indoor air environment with cold air distribution system can be affected. To maintain the human comfort of occupied zone, high degree of the angle of inlet direction was recommended, which can prevented the cold air from blowing to human body directly. Inlet with high induced ratio is recommended too, which can increase the mix air temperature and then make the indoor air distribution better. And, in order to keep the safety and reliability of the cold air distribution system, the induced ratio should be increased because the influence of the inlet direction is relative less.

Essam (2006) [19], studied the balance between thermal comfort and air quality in healthcare facilities to optimize indoor air quality. It was found that the design of the HVAC airside system plays an important role for achieving the optimum air quality beside the optimum comfort level. The air is not just a medium but it can be regarded as a guard in the critical health applications. The proper direction of the air flow increases the possibilities of successful pollutant scavenging from healthcare applications. The numerical tool was found to be so effective to predict air flow pattern in the healthcare facilities at reasonable costs and acceptable accuracy. Good architectural design allows the HVAC system designers to properly locate the supply outlet and extract ports in the optimum locations. The outlet supply air to sensitive ultraclean area and highly contaminated areas should be located on the ceiling or on sidewall closing to ceiling with perimeter or several exhaust inlets near the floor. In the isolation room's infectious patients, the patient bed should be located close to the extract ports. The immune suppressed patient's bed should be located in the side of the supplied air, or close to the supply outlets.

Jalal et al. (2007) [20], conducted a computational procedure in (3x3x3m) room in full-scale model building to study the effect of supply temperature on the room flow patterns in mechanically ventilated spaces. The procedure was based on the solution in finite-volume form of 3D equation for the conservation of mass, momentum, energy, kinetic energy and dissipation rate. Effect of buoyancy on the turbulence model has been included. It can be concluded that, it is important to note that heating, cooling effects may change the flow path. Buoyancy effects may "short circuit" the flow path and lead to plumes forming upwards or downwards, with large circulation zones.

Barbara (2008) [21], presented the problems and errors connected with the finding of the air distribution based on CFD codes. The sources of error are pointed out, as well as possibilities for eliminating or reducing them based on

program options and experimental identification of the predicted flows. Mixing ventilation using a ceiling square cone diffuser and a displacement system with laminar diffusers were applied. Numerical calculations were carried out using Fluent 6.1. The correctness of the predictions of the airflow pattern and contaminant propagation was assessed by comparison with visualization of actual flow. The predicted profiles of the parameters of air and tracer gas were compared with the results of measurements. The results of predicting the parameters of air and gaseous contaminants in a ventilated room, obtained by applying default options and grid discretization of the CFD code was found to disagree with measurement results for both mixing and displacement configurations. The choice of appropriate options was based on experimental identification of the flow and on previous experiences in numerical modeling of the buoyant plume in simple ventilated rooms.

Memarzadeh et al. (2000) [22], studied the performance of a ventilation system in a typical patient room using CFD modeling. They were able to predict the necessity of using baseboard heating in extreme weather conditions. Also the validation of various supply air diffuser models gave useful guidelines on CFD modeling. Memarzadeh et al. (2002) [23], simulated contaminant deposition in an operating room using CFD air flow modeling and showed that a laminar flow condition is the best choice for a ventilation system when contaminant deposition is considered. The contaminant considered in this simulation study is a particle-type squame, or skin scale, around 10 μm in size, released from three locations in the room and tracked to determine if they would impinge on either the surgical site or a back table.

7. Conclusion

Ventilation in operating room needs to be favorable to occupants (patients and healthcare workers). The ventilation should also assist in preventing diseases and treating patients. In this article, a comprehensive review of previous efforts is presented for ventilation air distribution in hospital operating room through fluent. The effects of several Parameters in fluent, thermal boundary conditions, and types of ventilation were investigated. Previous studies have shown that the Ventilation and air conditioning are very important for health care facilities, machine shops, manufacturing and chemical processing facilities, and other commercial occupancies in order to thermal comfort as well as for the removal of contaminants and other pollutions, Thus provides a healthy and comfortable environment for people such as patients, workers ,and visitors. In this review, challenges in hospital operating room environment have been identified and elaborated on. However, specific problems in the operating room need to be the focus in future works as there is a lack of unsteady state condition studies. Also, possibility of studying the effect of other factors such as size of opening supply, size and heat transfer between flow and walls.

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