
TO INTUBATE OR NOT TO INTUBATE

ACUTE RESPIRATORY FAILURE MANAGEMENT FOR THE NON-INTENSIVIST

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DISCLOSURES



- None

OBJECTIVES



- Define acute respiratory failure
- Compare and contrast high flow nasal cannula (HFNC), CPAP, BIPAP and mechanical ventilation
- Distinguish key features of common ventilator modes including volume control, pressure control and pressure support
- Determine appropriate ventilatory support and management for representative clinical scenarios

ACUTE RESPIRATORY FAILURE

You are called to the bedside of a 65 y/o male who feels short of breath and is tachypneic



HOW FAST DO YOU NEED TO ACT?



INITIAL ASSESSMENT



- Vitals (RR, O₂ Sat, BP, Pulse)
- Work of breathing
- ABG
 - (pH / PaCO₂ / PaO₂ / Bicarb)
- CXR
- ECG



ABG

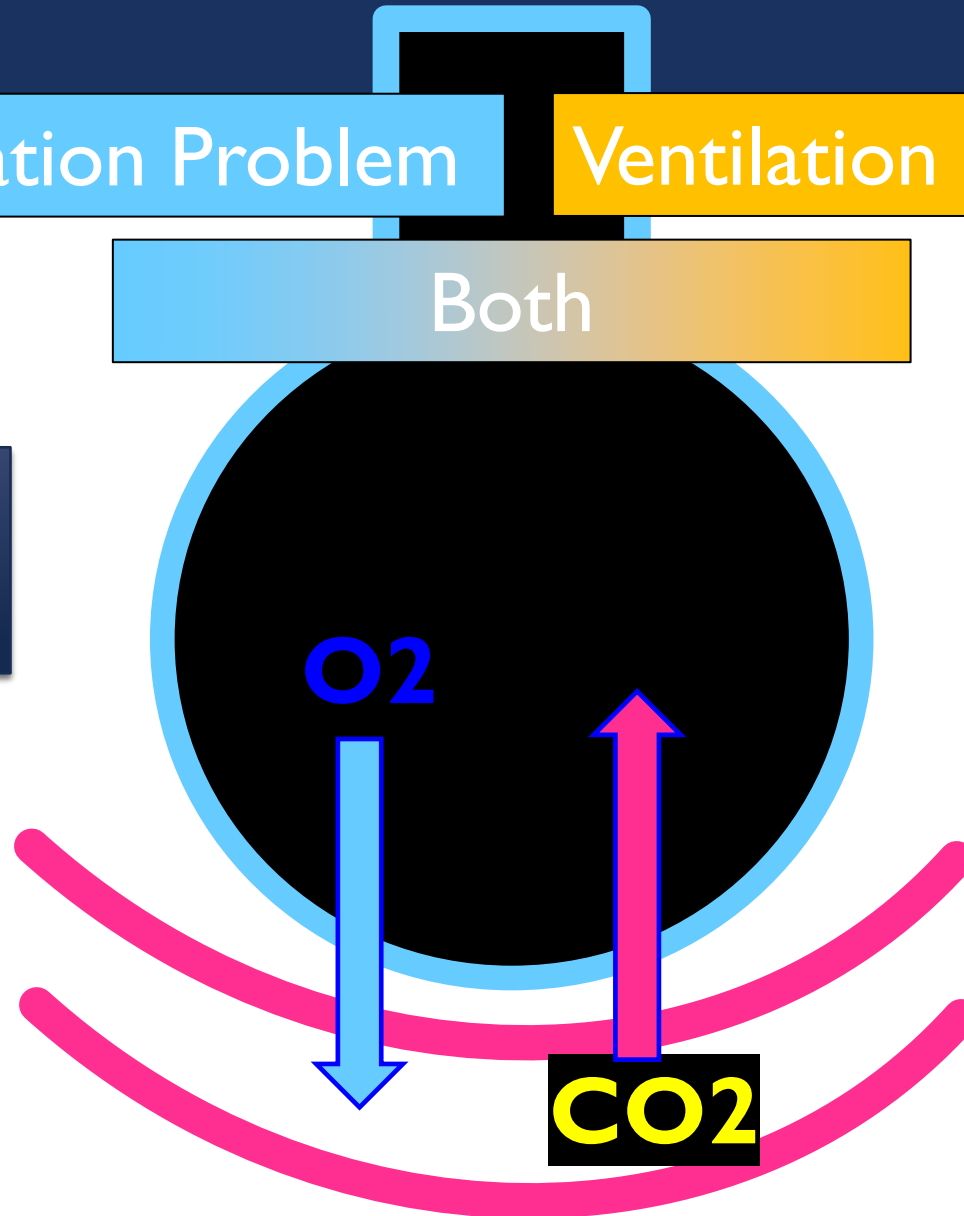
Oxygenation Problem

Ventilation Problem

Both

7.43 / 39 / 55 / 26
on 100% FiO₂

7.13 / 89 / 105 / 29
on 100% FiO₂



ABG

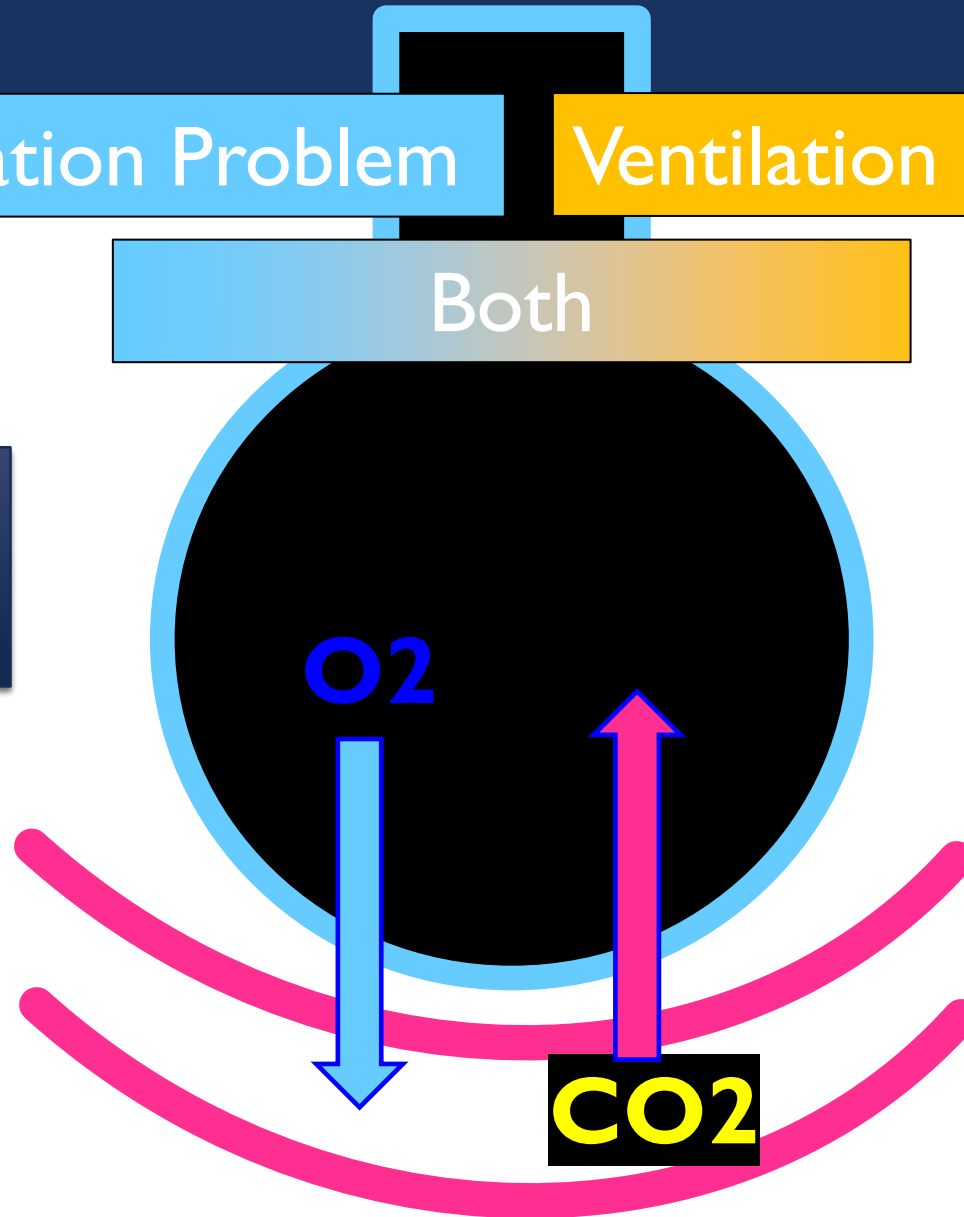
Oxygenation Problem

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7.43 / 39 / 55 / 26
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7.13 / 89 / 105 /
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DEFINITIONS



Type I (Hypoxemic)

- $\text{PaO}_2 \leq 60 \text{ mmHg}$
- Normal or decreased PaCO_2
- A-a gradient normal or increased

Type II (Hypercapnic)

- $\text{PaCO}_2 \geq 45$ with a $\text{pH} < 7.35$
- PaO_2 normal or low
- *REMEMBER: chronic CO₂ retainers may have a high PaCO_2 but a compensated $\text{pH} \geq 7.35$*

TYPE I (HYPOXEMIC) RESP. FAILURE

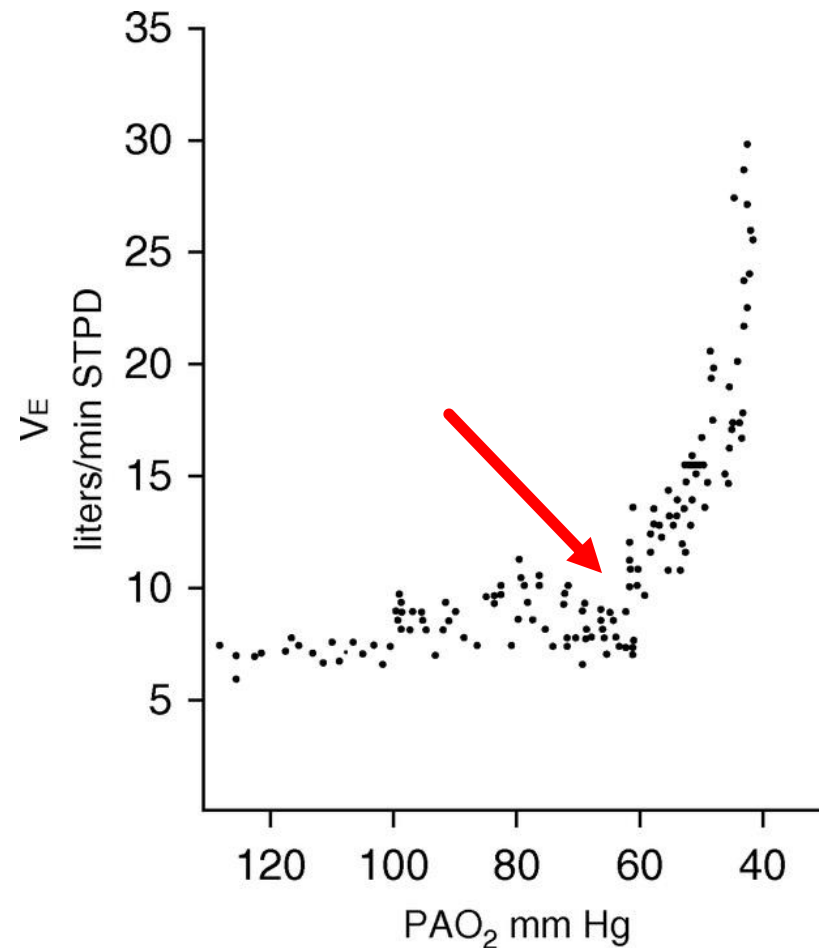


Normal A-a Gradients		Increased A-a Gradients		
Alveolar Hypoventilation Can progress to Type II Resp Failure	Low Inspired FiO ₂	Diffusion Defect Think about changes to alveolar capillary membrane	V/Q Mismatch Most common Type I Resp Failure	Shunt Occurs when VQ ratio = 0
CNS Depression (meds, hypothyroid) Decreased chest wall compliance (kyphoscoliosis) Neuromuscular disease (GBS, ALS)	High altitudes	Emphysema Edema Exercise Interstitial lung disease	ARDS Atelectasis COPD CHF PE Pneumonia	AVM Complete atelectasis Severe pulmonary edema Severe pneumonia

HYPOXEMIA & RR



- Hypoxemia rarely increases the RR assuming PaCO_2 is unchanged
- Once the PaO_2 falls < 60 mmHg the RR starts to increase



TYPE II (HYPERCAPNIC) RESP. FAILURE

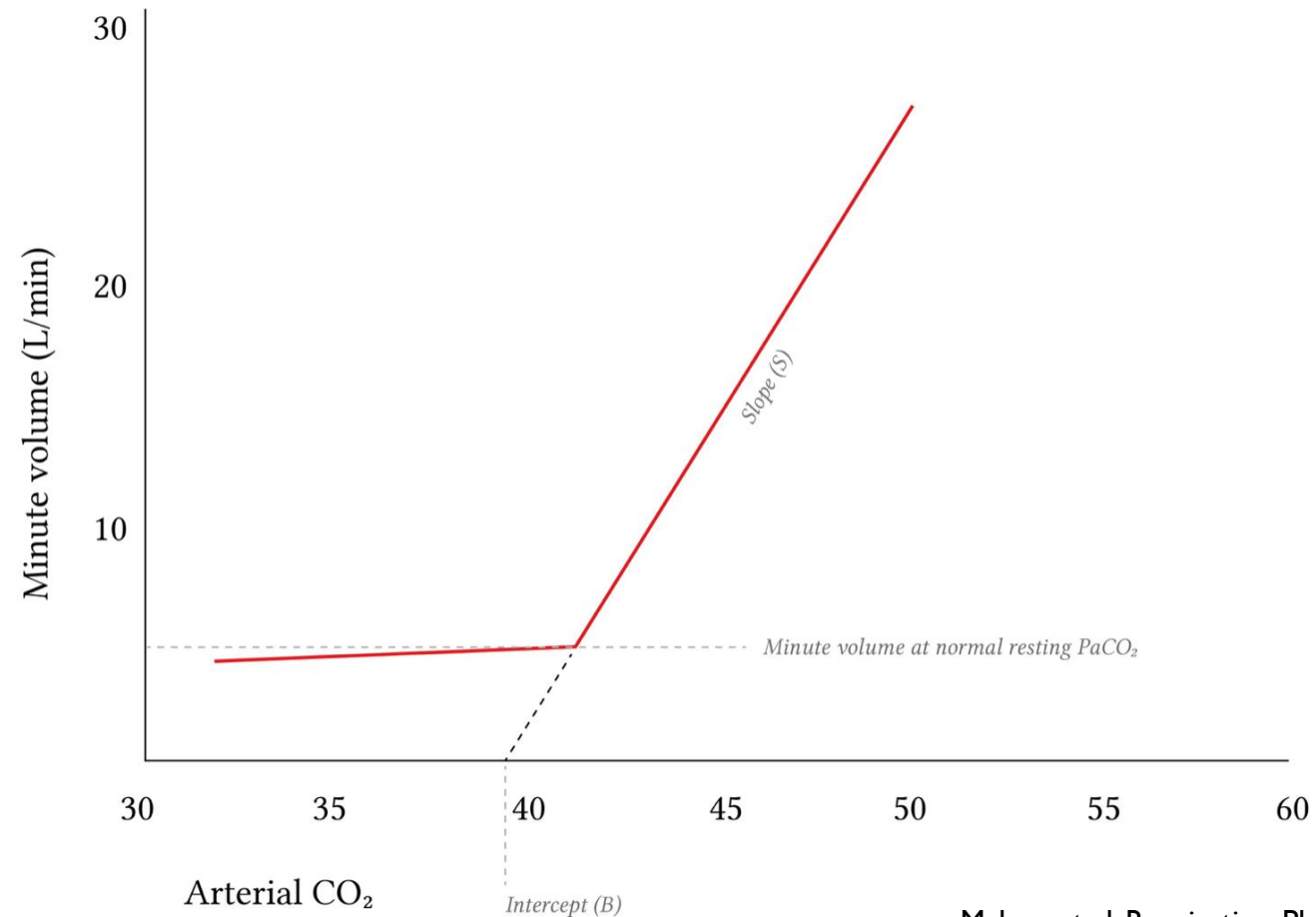


Respiratory Pump Failure					Increased CO ₂ Production
Altered Neural & Neuromuscular Transmission	Chest wall/Pleural Disorders	Dead Space Ventilation (Increased V/Q ratio)	Decreased Central Drive	Muscle Abnormalities	
ALS GBS Myasthenia gravis Transverse myelitis Botulism Spinal cord injury Organophosphate poisoning	Kyphoscoliosis Obesity Large pleural effusions	ARDS Bronchiectasis Emphysema PE	Sedatives Encephalitis Stroke	Diaphragm Paralysis	Increased in fever, exercise, sepsis, thyrotoxicosis
**Respiratory Pump = chest wall, lung parenchyma, muscles of respiration, nervous system (central and peripheral)					

HYPERCARBIA & RR



- Hypercarbia causes a rapid rise in RR once $\text{PaCO}_2 \geq 40$



SIGNS OF IMPENDING RESPIRATORY ARREST



SIGNS OF IMPENDING RESPIRATORY ARREST



- Vitals (sats, RR)
- Speaking in short sentences
- Cyanosis
- Accessory muscle use
- Decreased consciousness





MODES OF VENTILATORY SUPPORT



Delivered FiO₂ DECREASES during respiratory distress due to increased room air entrainment



- Inspiratory flow at rest is ~25 – 40 LPM
- Respiratory distress generates even **higher** flow in the patient (60 – 100 LPM)
- Device flow rates are fixed



LEVELS OF NON-INVASIVE SUPPORT



Supports Oxygenation
 ≤ 15 LPM

Supports Oxygenation &
Ventilation > 15 LPM

High Flow

HFNC
NIPPV

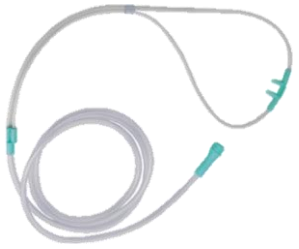
Intermediate Flow

Venturi Mask

Low Flow

Nasal Cannula
Face Mask
Non-rebreather Mask

LOW FLOW OXYGEN SUPPORT



Nasal Cannula



Simple
Mask



Oxymask



Partial
Rebreather
Mask

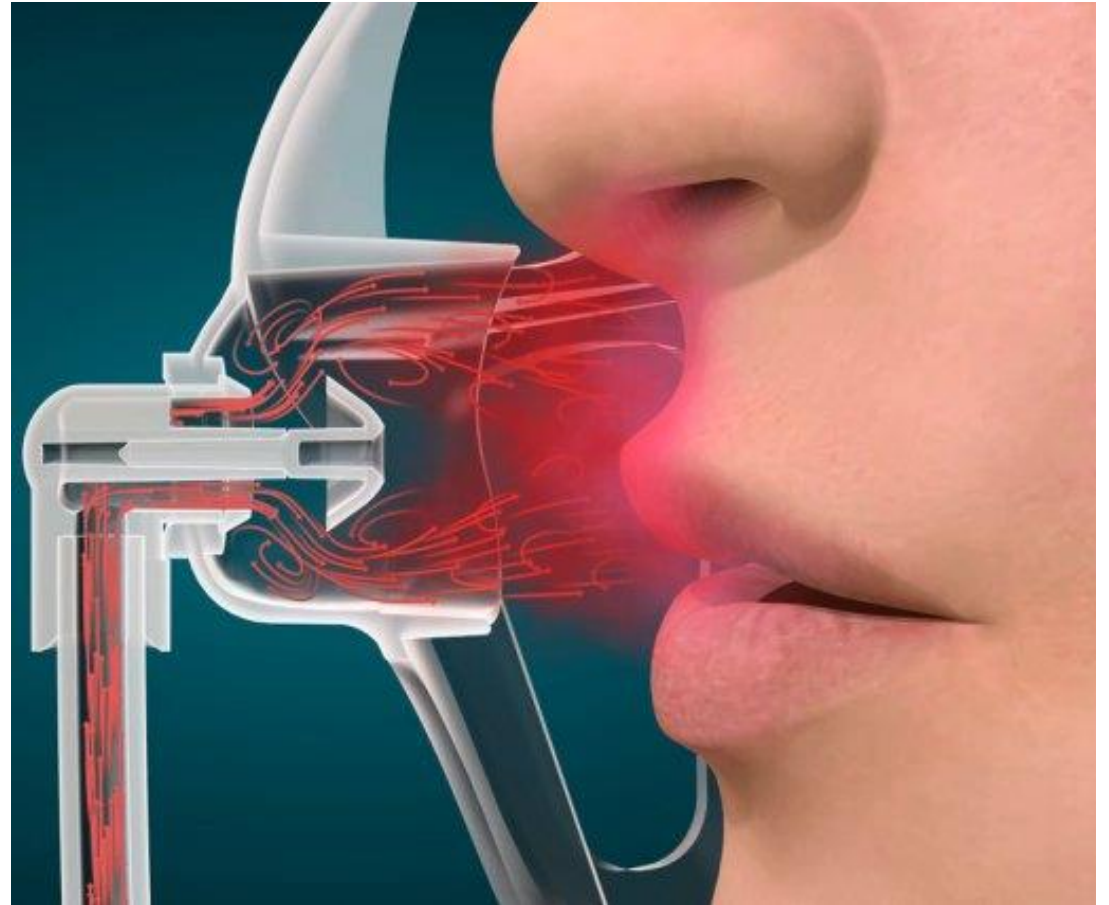


Non-
Rebreather
Mask

Non-reservoir based devices

Reservoir based devices

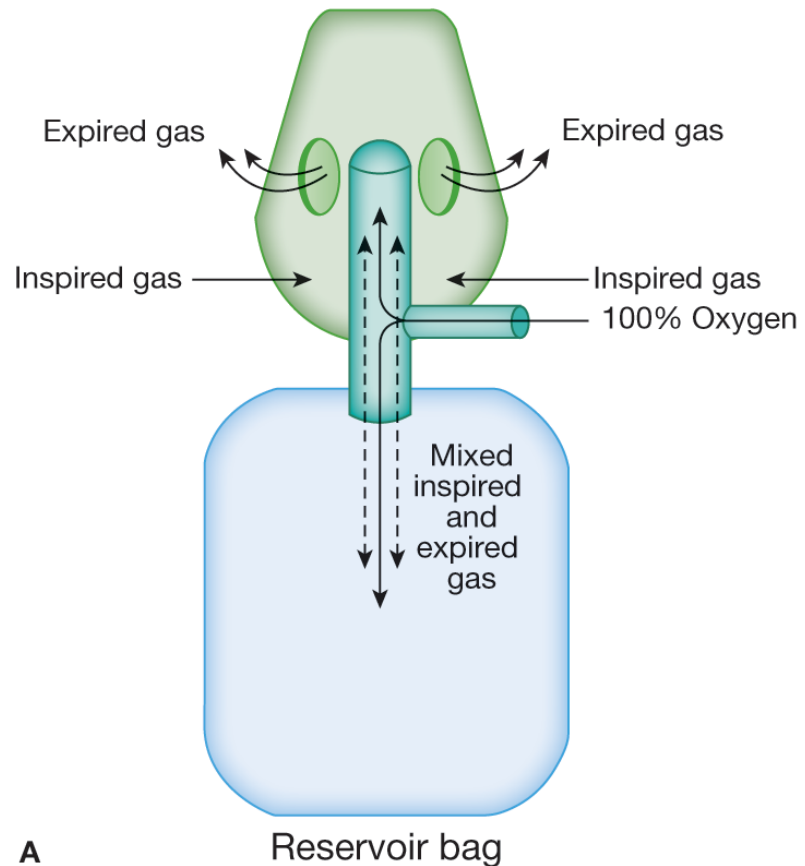
OXYMASK



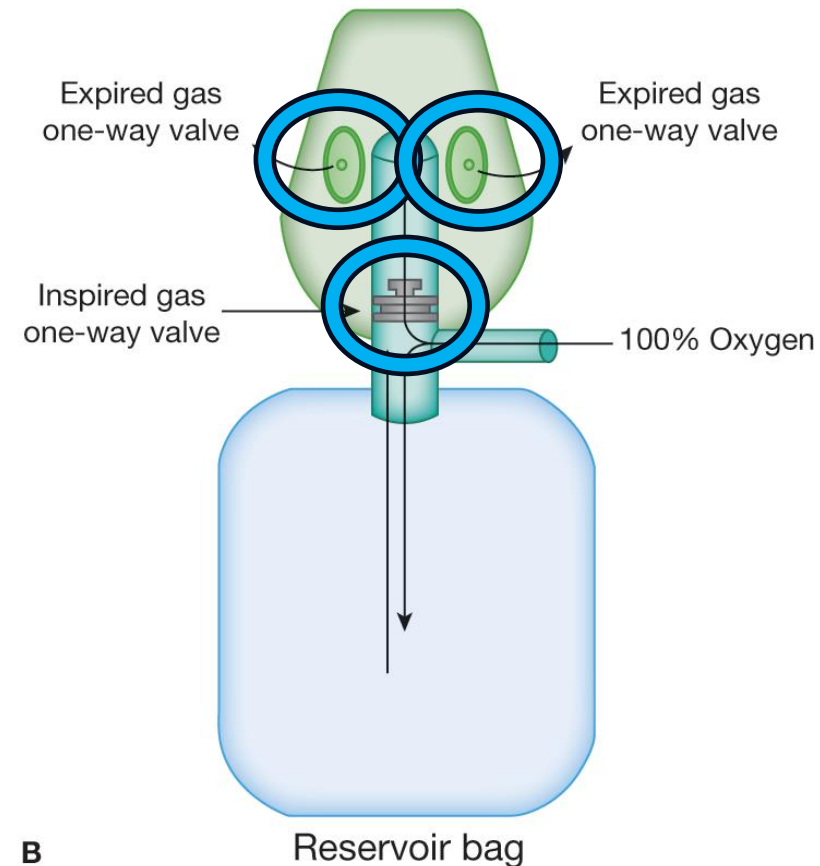
RESERVOIR DEVICES



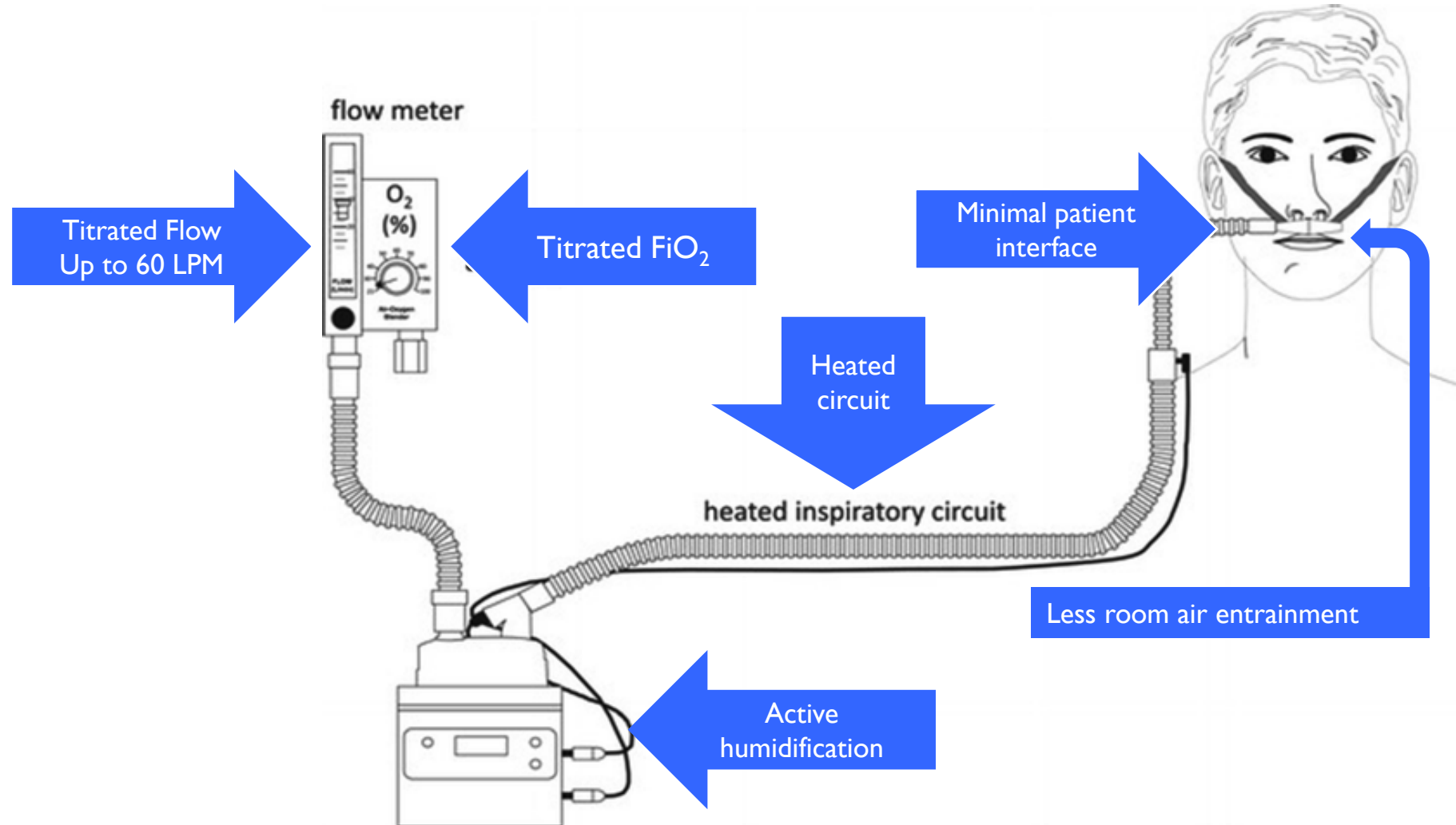
Partial Rebreather



Non-Rebreather



HIGH FLOW NASAL CANNULA



HFNC REDUCES ANATOMIC DEAD SPACE

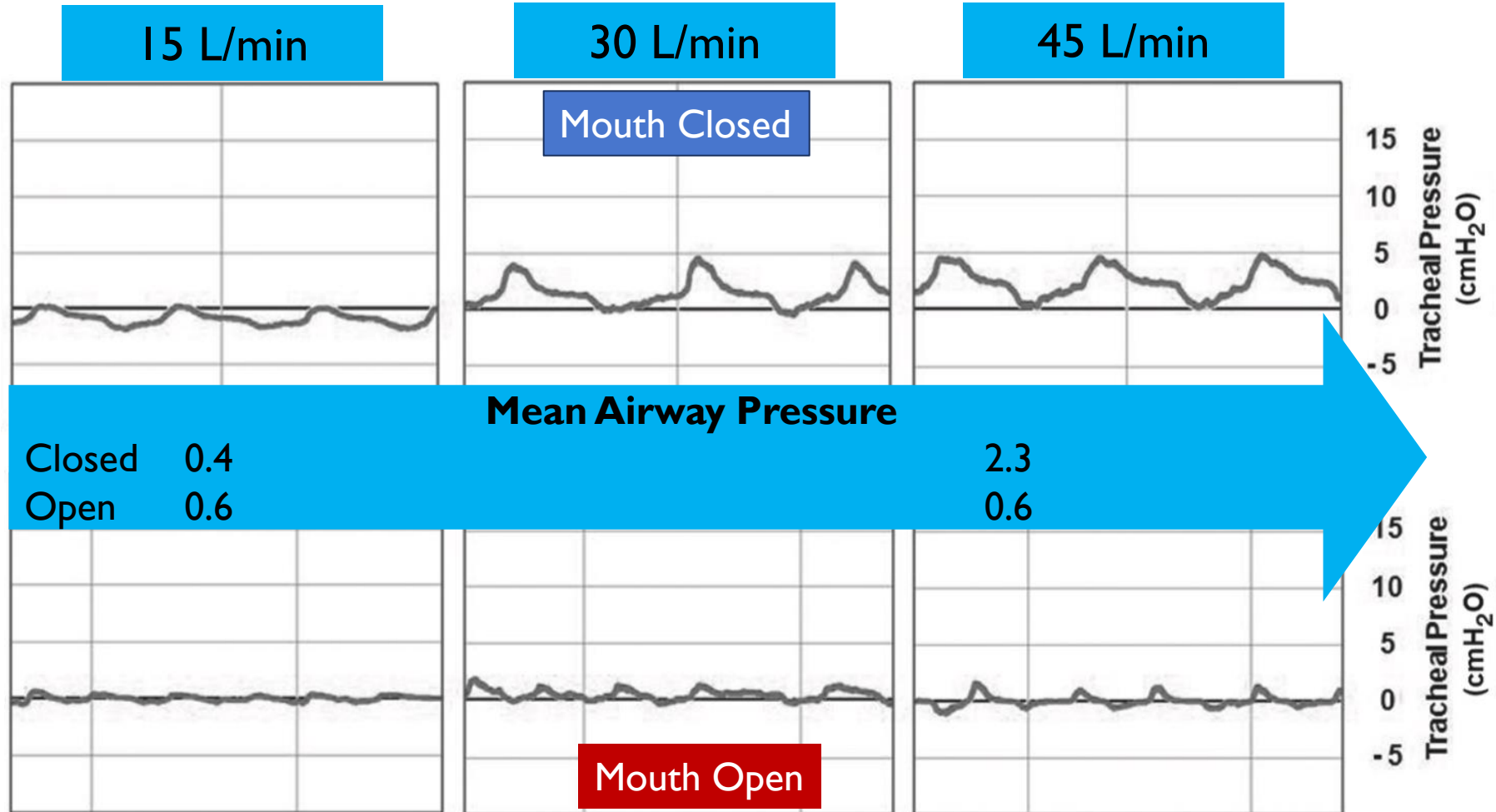


Flow-Dependent CO₂ Clearance



Areas of CO₂ washout in upper airway

HFNC & PEEP



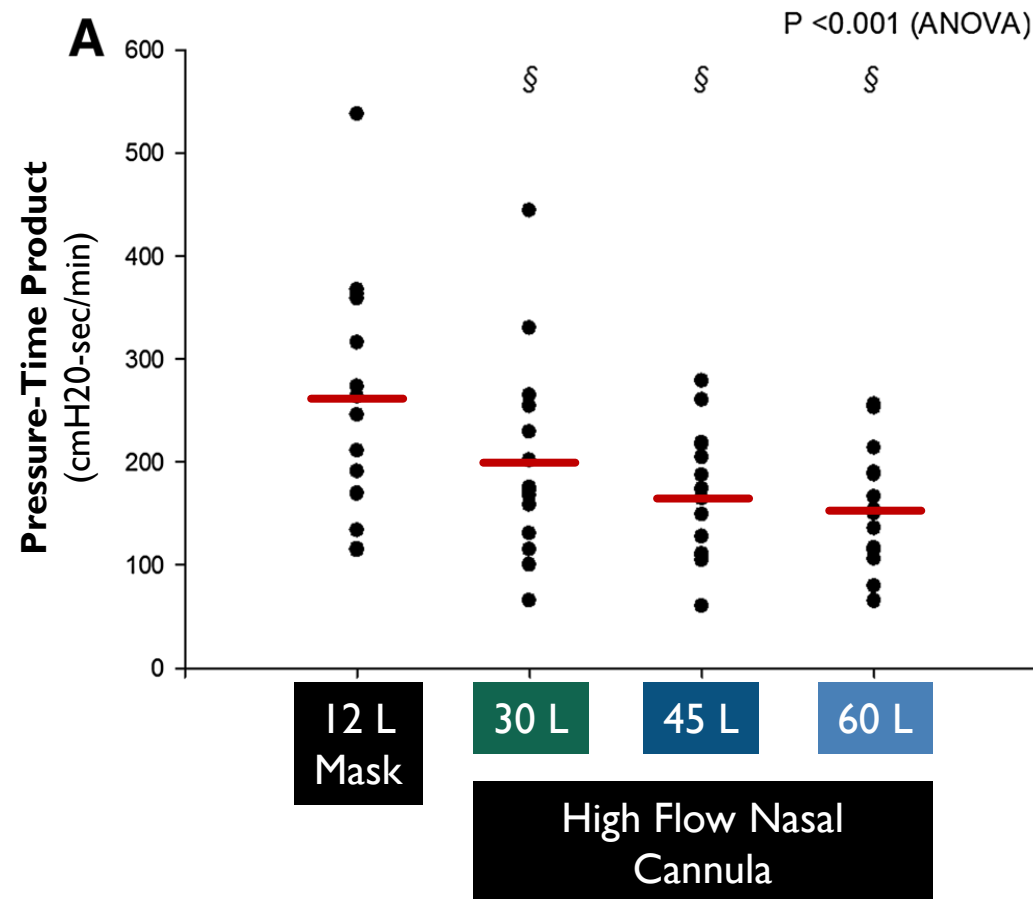
HFNC REDUCES WORK OF BREATHING



HFNC REDUCES WORK OF BREATHING



Metabolic Demands
of Breathing



HFNC TITRATION



High work of breathing?
At risk for intubation?



Support both ventilation
and oxygenation

Maximize flow (>30 L/min)
Titrate FiO_2 to sat goal

Low work of breathing?



Support oxygenation

Maximize FiO_2
Titrate flow to sat goal

WEANING HFNC



- Has the underlying condition requiring HFNC improved?
- $SpO_2 \geq 88\%$
- $RR \leq 25$
- Low work of breathing
 - Able to speak in full sentences
 - Absence of accessory muscle use



$\leq 40 \text{ L/min}$
 $\leq 60\% \text{ FiO}_2$

WEANING HFNC



Increase FiO_2 to 100%
Decrease flow by 10 L/min

Reassess vital signs and work of breathing in 10-20 minutes



Maintain FiO_2 at 100%
Decrease flow by 10 L/min

Reassess vital signs and work of breathing in 10-20 minutes



Once flow ≤ 20 L/min, trial of low flow cannula or face mask

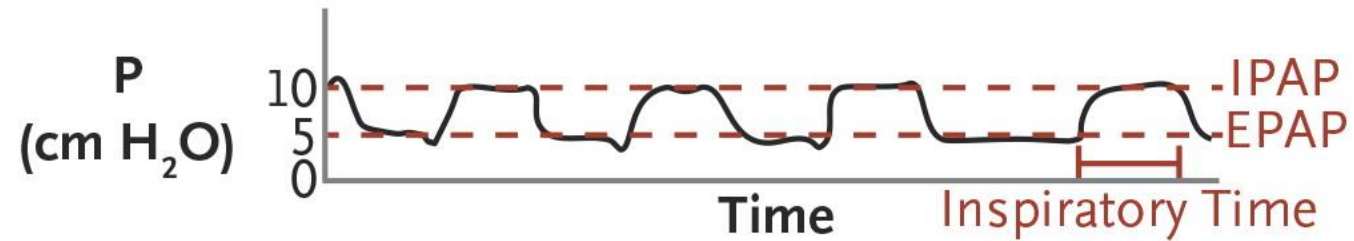
NON-INVASIVE POSITIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION



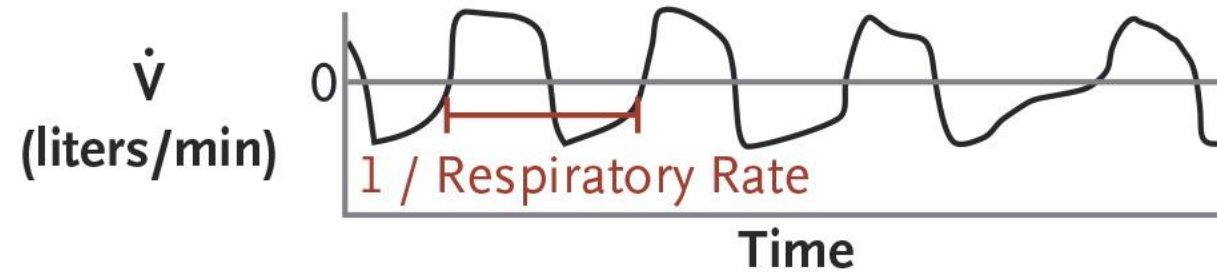
BIPAP WAVEFORMS



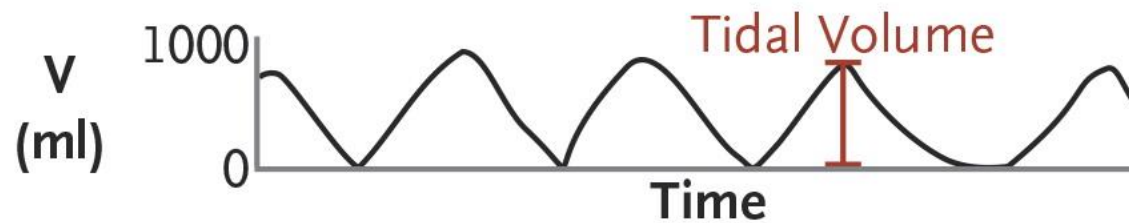
Pressure



Minute Ventilation



Tidal Volume



BIPAP TITRATION

7.38 / 36 / 58



Oxygenation
(PaO_2)



FiO_2



Mean Airway
Pressure

EPAP/PEEP

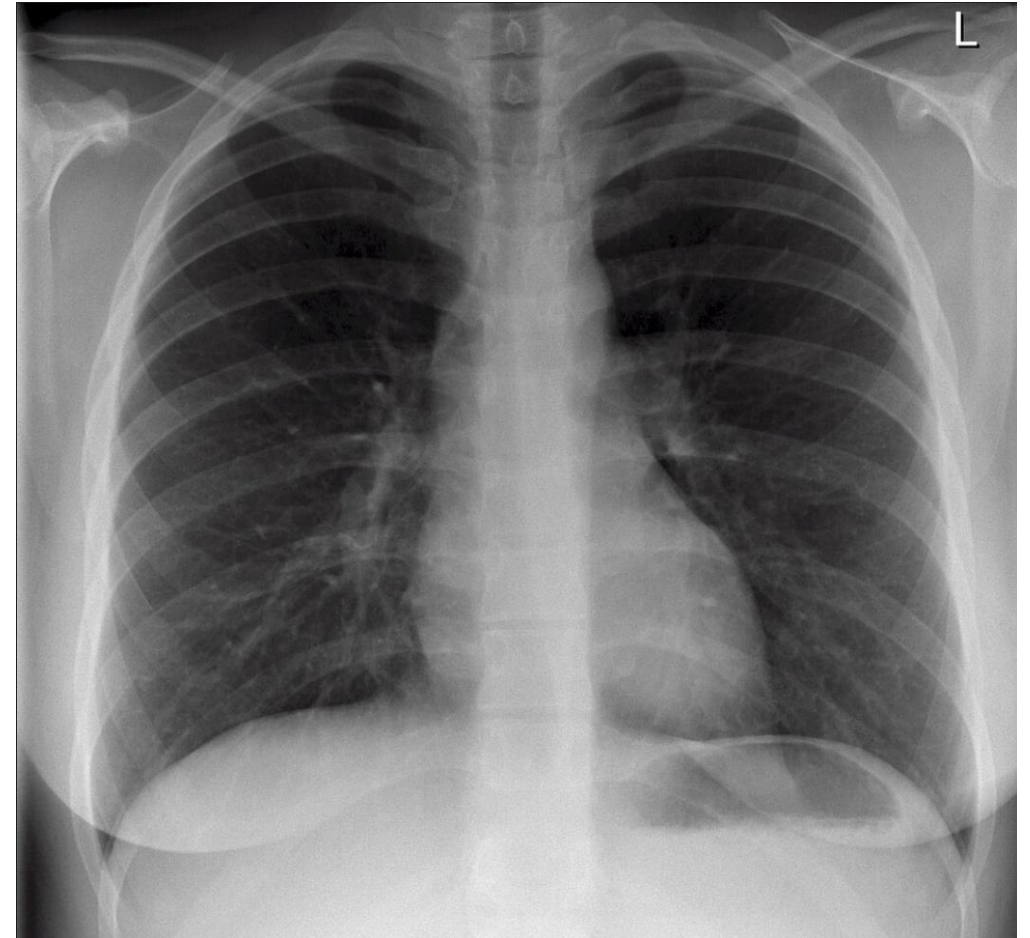
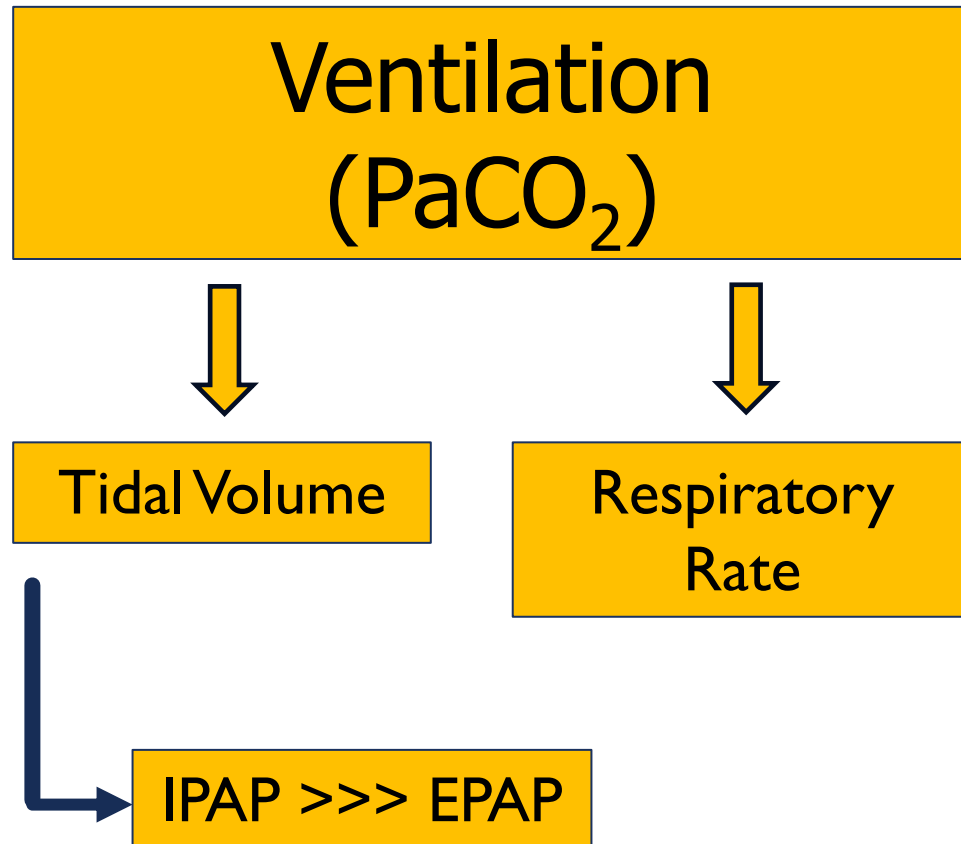
Inspiratory Pressure

Inspiratory Time



BIPAP TITRATION

7.14 / 85 / 108



MY ALGORITHM



ASSESS YOUR PATIENT

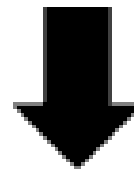
Overall appearance - toxic, work of breathing, comfortable

Vitals – hemodynamics, sats, resp rate

Obtain ABG or VBG and xray

Respiratory history?

New medications? Recent blood products?



Determine if the respiratory insufficiency or failure is hypoxic or hypercapnic

Determine if there are any contraindications to NIV ventilation

If so then consider need for intubation

Review documented goals of care

CONTRAINDICATIONS TO NIV



- Uncooperative patient
- Altered mental status **
 - Unless purely from elevated PaCO₂
- Hemodynamically unstable
- Active cardiac ischemia, arrhythmias
- Active upper GI bleed
- Copious secretions
- Vomiting or emesis
- Unable to protect airway
- Facial trauma
- Untreated pneumothorax
- Recent facial/upper airway surgery
- Epistaxis
- Skull base fracture

MY ALGORITHM



Hypercapnic

$\text{PaCO}_2 > 45$ with acidemia

BiPAP

Indications:

- Acute COPD exacerbation
- Post-extubation respiratory failure
- OSA
OHS
- Acute asthma exacerbation
- CHF exacerbation

Initial Settings:

- 100% FiO_2 and rapidly titrate to saturation goal
- Start IPAP at 10cmH₂O and EPAP 5cmH₂O

Hypoxic

$\text{PaO}_2 < 60$

HFNC

Indications:

- Pneumonia
- Cardiogenic pulmonary edema
- Acute asthma exacerbation
- PE
- Post-extubation respiratory distress
- Post CT surgery

Initial Settings:

- 100% FiO_2
- Flow 60L/min

CPAP

Indications:

- Cardiogenic pulmonary edema
- Post-op respiratory failure
- OSA
- Post trauma respiratory failure

Initial Settings:

- 100% FiO_2 and rapidly titrate to saturation goal
- Start 5cmH₂O and titrate to goal

MY ALGORITHM



Monitoring

- Frequent reassessment is critical!
- Set a goal for your patient (sats or ABG)
- Obtain ABG/VBG and do clinical reassessment at frequent intervals:
 - 30min, 1hr, 2hr, 4hr
- If they aren't making progress to the goal or meeting the goal consider intubation.



Goals not met by NIV



Intubation

INVASIVE VENTILATION



- Common Modes
 - Volume
 - Pressure
- 3 Features of Each
 - Trigger
 - Cycle
 - Limit



VOLUME CONTROL



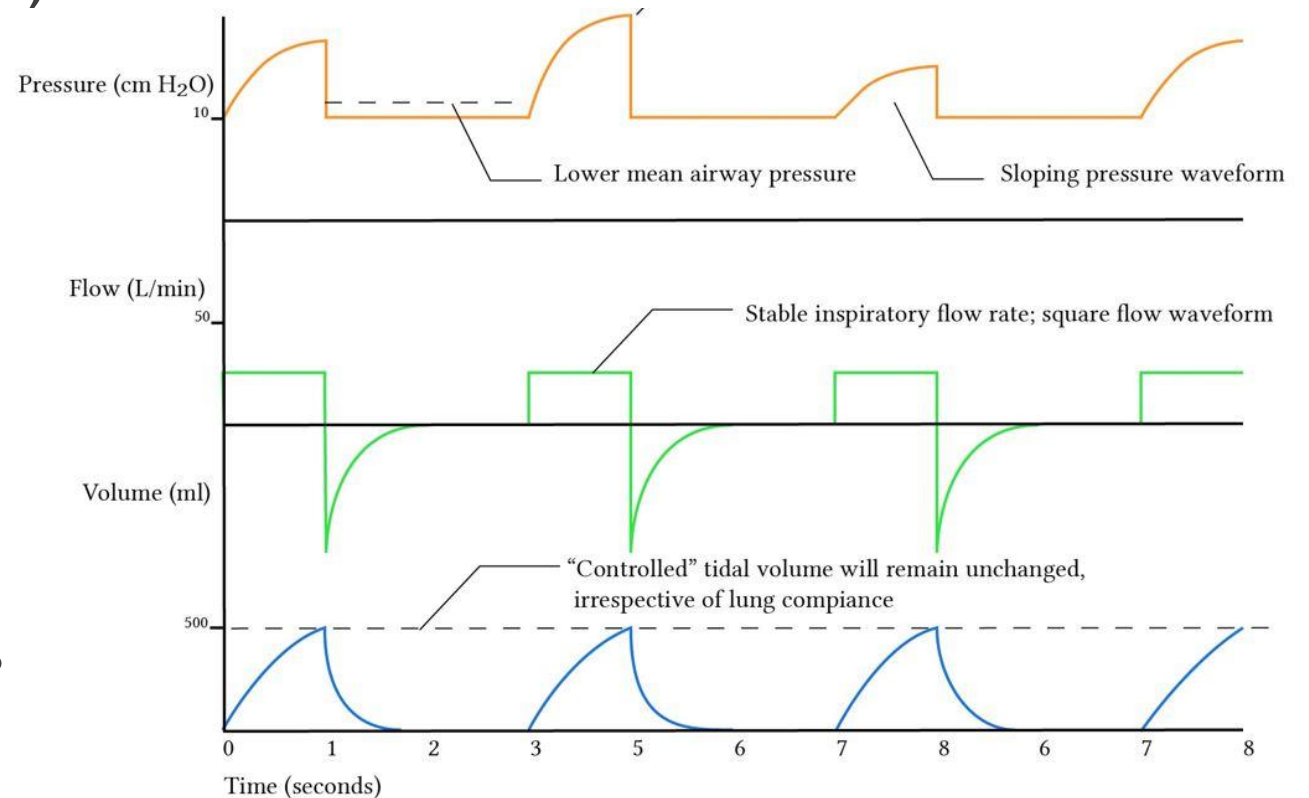
- Delivers a set tidal volume (TV) with each breath

- We set:

- **RR, TV, PEEP, FiO₂**

- We monitor patient pressures

- Peak and plateau pressure
- Driving pressure = plateau - peep



PRESSURE CONTROL



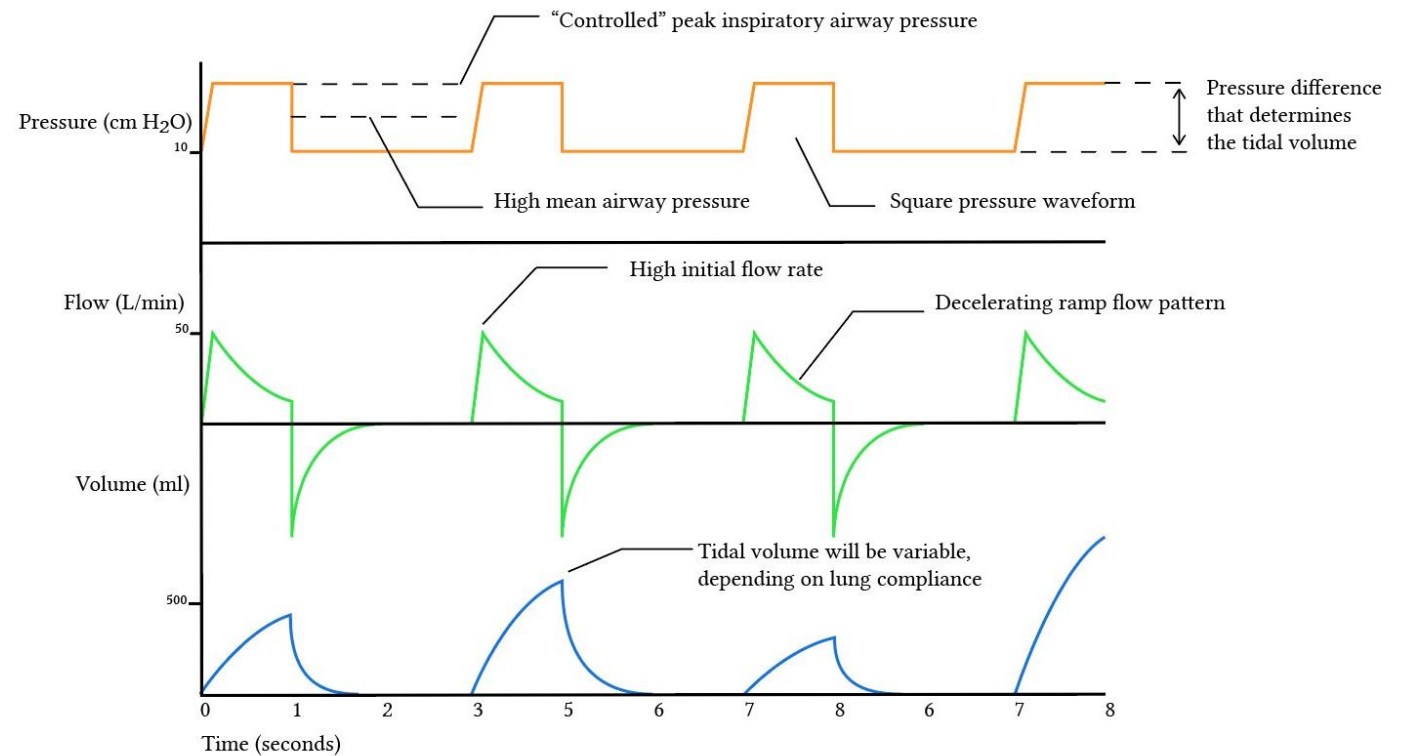
- Delivers a set inspiratory pressure (P_{insp}) for a set time (T_i) with each breath

- We set:

- **RR**, **P_{insp}** , **PEEP**, **FiO_2**

- We monitor patient:

- Tidal volume
- Minute ventilation

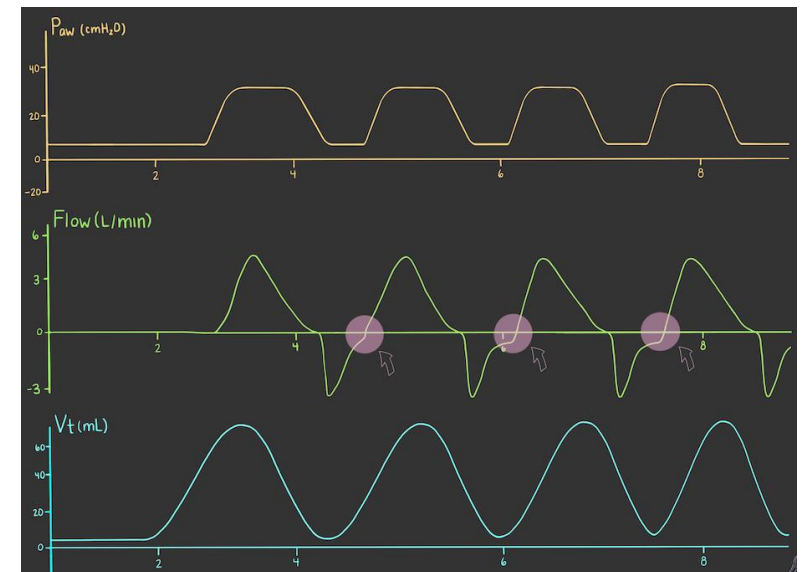


PRESSURE SUPPORT



- **ALL** breaths are patient initiated
- No ventilation guaranteed → determined solely by patient effort
- Used for spontaneous breathing trials
- We set:
 - **PS, PEEP, FiO₂**

- We monitor patient:
 - Tidal volume
 - Minute ventilation
 - RR



VENTILATOR TITRATION



Oxygenation
(PaO_2)



FiO₂



Mean Airway
Pressure

PEEP

Inspiratory Pressure

Inspiratory Time

Ventilation
(PaCO_2)



Tidal Volume



Respiratory
Rate

Tidal volume

Inspiratory pressure



CLINICAL CASES



65 y/o male with COPD on 3L NC home O2 presents with:



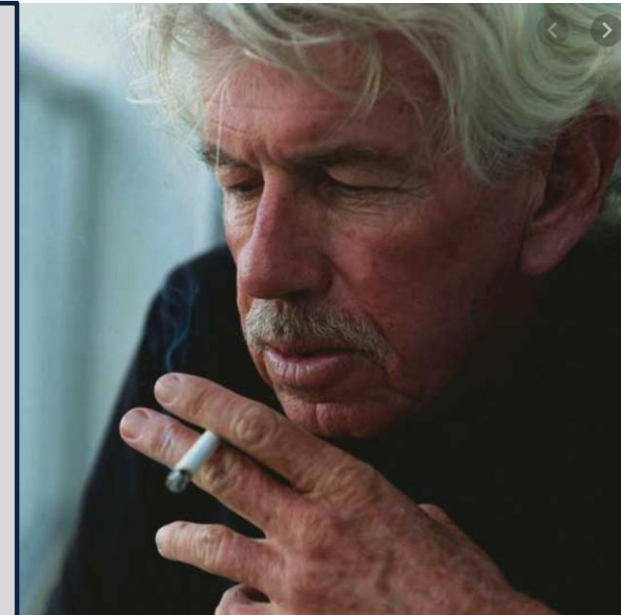
- Productive cough
- Wheezing for 5 days
- History of prior exacerbation requiring intubation

VS: Afebrile
HR 95 and regular
BP 145/84
RR 28 breaths/min
SpO₂ 92% on 8 LPM oxymask

Exam: diffuse expiratory wheezing, accessory muscle use

CXR: hyperinflation, airway thickening, no consolidation

ABG: 7.20 / 85 / 59



CASE 1 CONTINUATION



- You initiate bronchodilators, prednisone and antibiotics for a COPD exacerbation
- He continues to have a respiratory rate of 35 and accessory muscle use. He requires 10L oxymask.
- Does this patient require additional respiratory support?

BIPAP OUTCOMES VS LOW FLOW O2 IN COPD



- **Lower mortality** (7.1% versus 13.9%; RR 0.54, 95% CI 0.38–0.76)
- **Fewer intubations** (12% versus 30.6%; RR 0.43, 95% CI 0.35–0.53)
- **Shorter hospital LOS** (2.88 days fewer, 95% CI 1.17–4.59 days fewer)
- **Short ICU LOS** (4.99 days fewer, 95% CI 0–9.99 days fewer)

CASE I CONTINUED



- You initiate BiPAP with:
 - IPAP 10cm H₂O
 - EPAP 4cm H₂O
 - FiO₂ titrated to 88-92%
- What would make you comfortable he is improving?
- How soon would you reassess him?



CASE I CONCLUSION



- Next ABG:

- 7.23 / 80 / 65

- IPAP 10cm H₂O
 - EPAP 4cm H₂O
 - FiO₂ titrated to 88-92%

- Any changes?

- Increase the IPAP to 14

- New Settings: IPAP 14 / EPAP 4

Final ABG: 7.30 / 65 / 70



65 y/o female with history of systolic heart failure presents with:



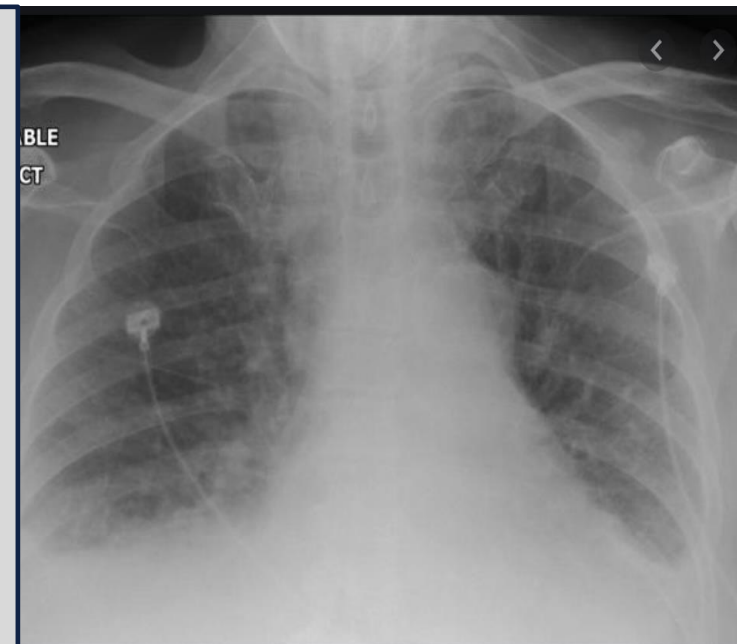
- 2 weeks of increasing dyspnea/orthopnea
- Weight gain
- Lower extremity edema bilaterally

VS: afebrile
HR 105 and irregularly irregular
BP 98/45
RR 34 breaths/min
SpO₂ 84% on room air

Exam: inspiratory rales from bases to midlung
accessory muscle use

EKG: afib, no ST-T wave changes

ABG: 7.44 / 30 / 45

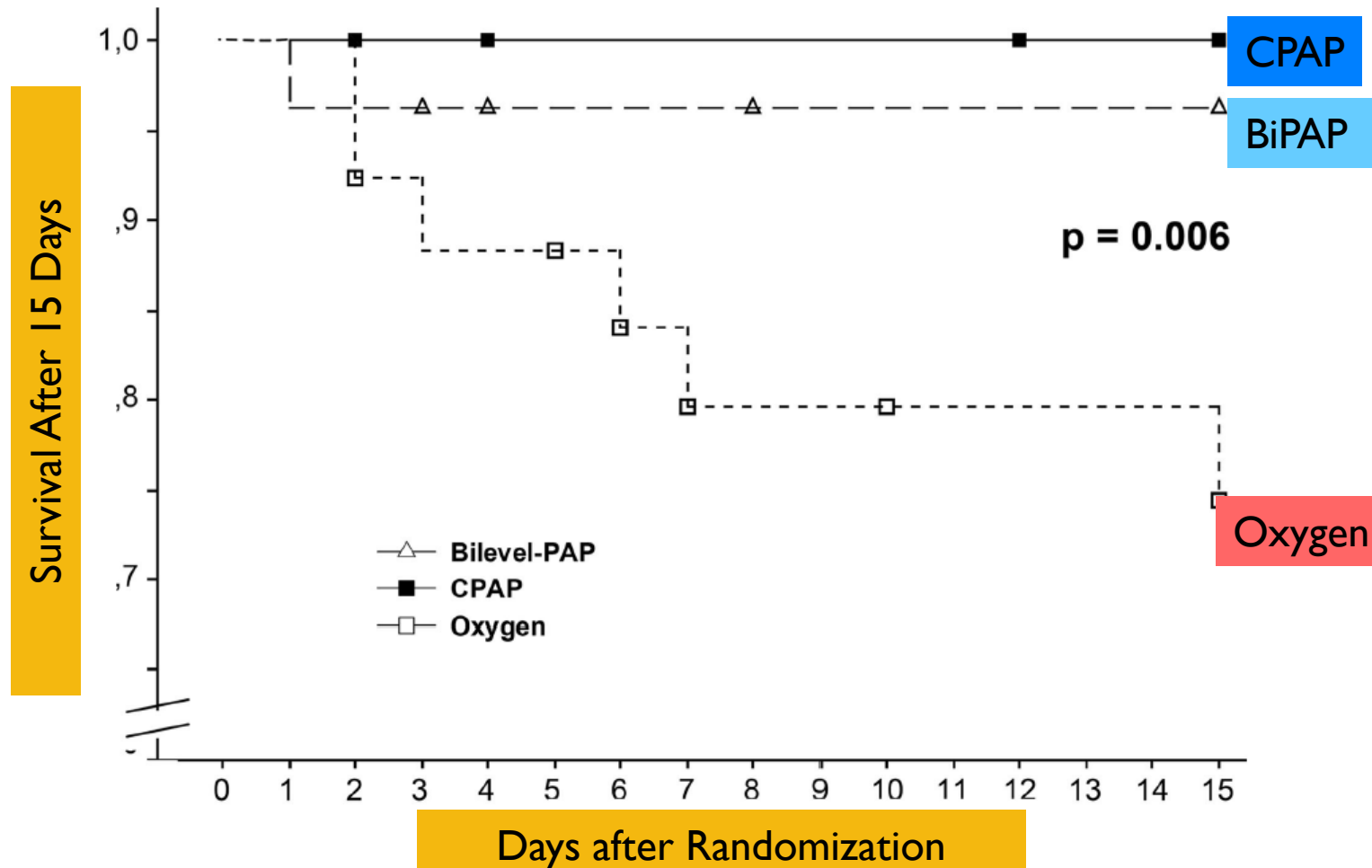


CASE 2 CONTINUATION

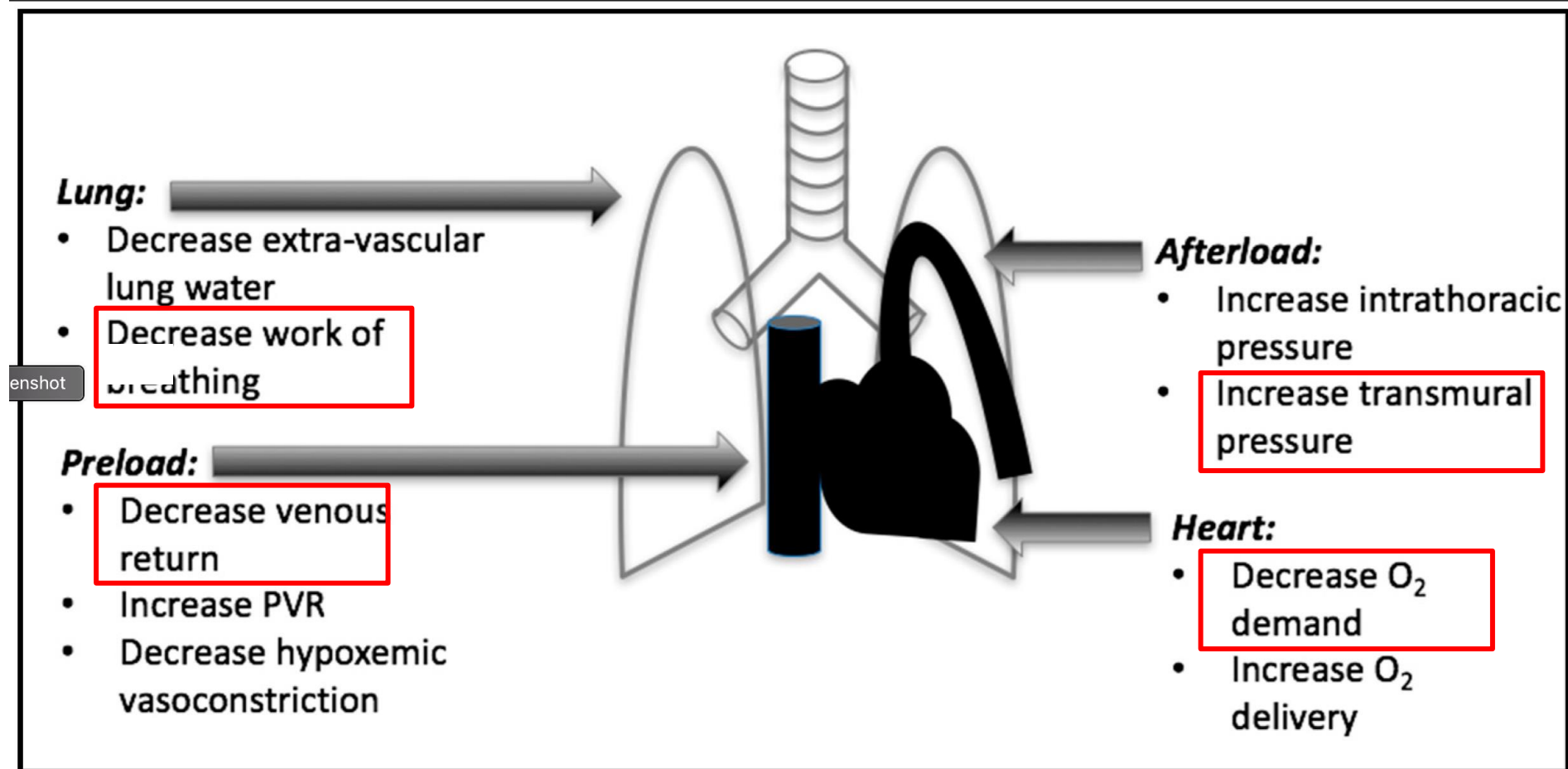


- Patient is AAO x3 but in moderate respiratory distress
- You give 60mg IV Lasix pending UOP response
- What type of respiratory support do you choose in this case?

NIPPV FOR HEART FAILURE EXACERBATIONS



PHYSIOLOGIC EFFECTS OF POSITIVE PRESSURE



CASE 2 CONTINUED



- You initiate CPAP with:
 - CPAP 10cm H₂O
 - FiO₂ titrated to > 92%
- What would make you comfortable she is improving?
- How soon would you reassess her?



CASE 2 CONCLUSION



- Next ABG:
 - 7.42 / 35 / 55
- Any Changes?
- Increase CPAP to 14cm H₂O

Final ABG: 7.42 / 35 / 70



28 y/o healthy male presents with:



- 2 days of fevers and chills
- Productive cough with purulent phlegm
- Dyspnea
- LLL Opacity

VS: Temp 39.4° C
HR 138 and regular
BP 95/60
RR 32 breaths/min
SpO₂ 82% on room air

Exam: rhonchi and crackles throughout left lung
accessory muscle use

ABG: 7.34 / 32 / 52



CASE 3 CONTINUATION



- You initiate IV fluids, IV antibiotics and apply an oxymask.
- He appears in moderate respiratory distress with high work of breathing despite the improvement in sats to 90% on 15L.
- What respiratory support mode would you move to next?

High-Flow Oxygen through Nasal Cannula in Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

313 Patients with Acute Resp Failure

- RR > 25
- PaCO₂ < 45
- P/F < 300
- 10+ liters for 15+ minutes

106 // High Flow NC

~48 L/min
~82% FiO₂

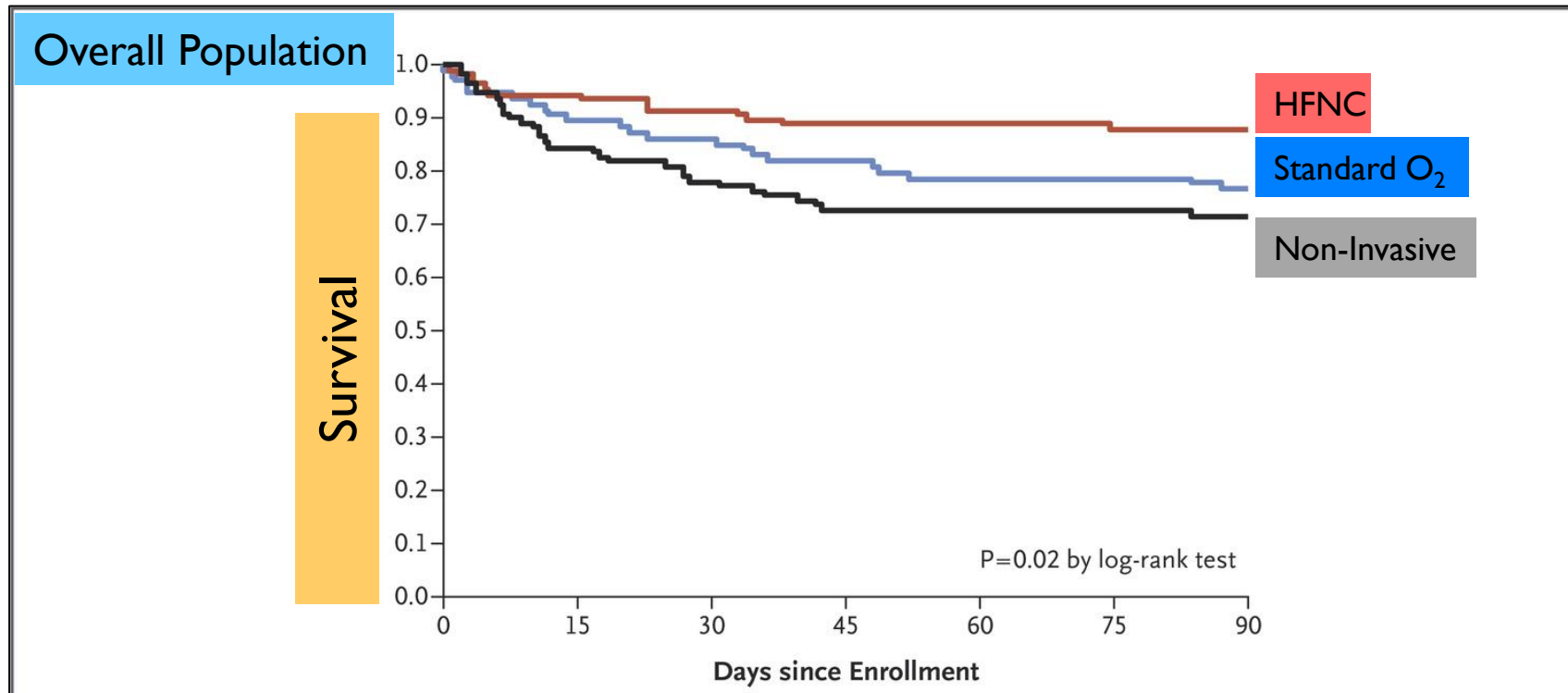
96 // Standard Oxygen

13 L/min

111 // NIV

IPAP 8.3 cm/H₂O
V_t ~ 9
EPAP 5 cm/H₂O
FiO₂ 67%
~8 Hrs per day

IMPROVED SURVIVAL IN THE HFNC GROUP



CASE 3 CONCLUSION



- You initiate HFNC with:
 - 40 - 60L flow
 - 100% FiO₂
- What would make you comfortable he improving?
- How soon would you reassess him?



WHAT VENTILATOR CHANGES?



- 7.38 / 40 / 45 on 30% FiO₂ and PEEP 5



- 7.38 / 40 / 85

- 7.32 / 38 / 50 on 100% FiO₂ and PEEP 10



- 7.32 / 38 / 70

■ Vent Settings:

- Volume Control
- RR 20
- VT 450ml (6ml/kg)

WHAT VENTILATOR CHANGES?



- Vent Settings:

- Volume Control
- RR 14
- VT 450ml (6ml/kg)

- 7.15 / 85 / 90 on 30% FiO₂ and PEEP 5



- 7.28 / 65 / 90

- 7.20 / 85 / 105 on 30% FiO₂ and PEEP 5



- 7.14 / 105 / 95

GENERAL WORKFLOW



NIPPV

High Flow

Nasal Cannula

COPD Exacerbation → BiPAP

Heart Failure Exacerbation → CPAP or BiPAP

Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure → High Flow

TAKE HOME POINTS



- Respiratory failure can be hypoxic, hypercapnic or mixed
- Respiratory support chosen is determined by cause and type of respiratory failure
- Reassess your patient's response to the chosen respiratory support early and often initially
- Call for help or transfer if the patient isn't responding as expected to the changes you are making



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

