



CCM tutorial

--ARDS

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20th August 2013

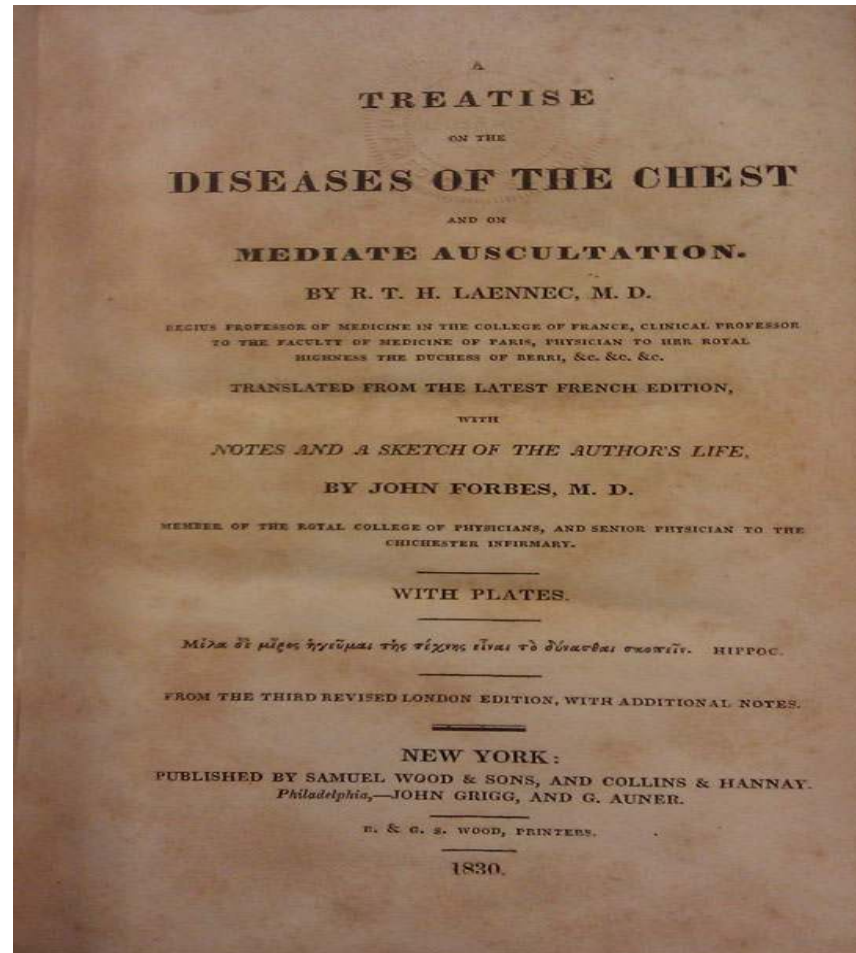
In the beginning



- 1816, RTH Laennec invented the first stethoscope

In 1821

- Combining necropsy and physical finding, diseases of lung were described
- “Idiopathic anasarca of lung—pulmonary edema without heart failure”
- Universally fatal





Ashbaugh 1967

- “Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome”
- “Rapid onset of tachypnea and hypoxemia, with loss of lung compliance, diffuse CXR alveolar infiltrates”
- “Closely resembles respiratory distress seen in infants”
- Pathology is related to diminished surfactant
- PEEP may help

IDEAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CARDIOGENIC & NONCARDIOGENIC PULMONARY EDEMA

	CARDIOGENIC PULMONARY EDEMA	NONCARDIOGENIC PULMONARY EDEMA
History		
Acute cardiac event	Usually	Uncommon (but possible)
Physical Examination		
Cardiac output state	Low-flow state (cool periphery)	High-flow state (warm periphery, bounding pulses)
S ₃ gallop	Present	Absent
Jugular venous distention	Present	Absent
Crackles	Wet	Dry
Underlying non-cardiac disease (e.g., peritonitis)	Usually absent	Present
Laboratory Tests		
Electrocardiogram	Ischemia/infarction	Usually normal
Chest x-ray	Perihilar distribution	Peripheral distribution
Cardiac enzymes	May be elevated	Usually normal
Pulmonary capillary pressure	>18 mm Hg	<18 mm Hg
Intrapulmonary shunting	Small	Large
Edema fluid/serum protein	<0.5	>0.7
Sibbald WJ et al. Chest 84:460, 1983.		



American European Consensus Conference (AECC) 1994

- Acute onset
- Hypoxemia
 - ARDS $\rightarrow \text{PaO}_2 / \text{FiO}_2 \leq 200$
 - Acute Lung Injury $\rightarrow \text{PaO}_2 / \text{FiO}_2 \leq 300$
- Bilateral infiltrates on CXR consistent with edema
- No evidence of left atrial hypertension
 - PCWP ≤ 18 mmHg



Problems unanswered by AECC

- Heterogeneous disease
- Widely possible etiology
- Lacking gold standard to validate
 - pathology?
 - diffuse alveolar damage?
- Routine use of pulmonary artery catheter?



Specific issues unsettled

- “Acute” not defined explicitly
- Subsequent trials often arbitrarily fixed at ≤ 72 hours after pulmonary insults

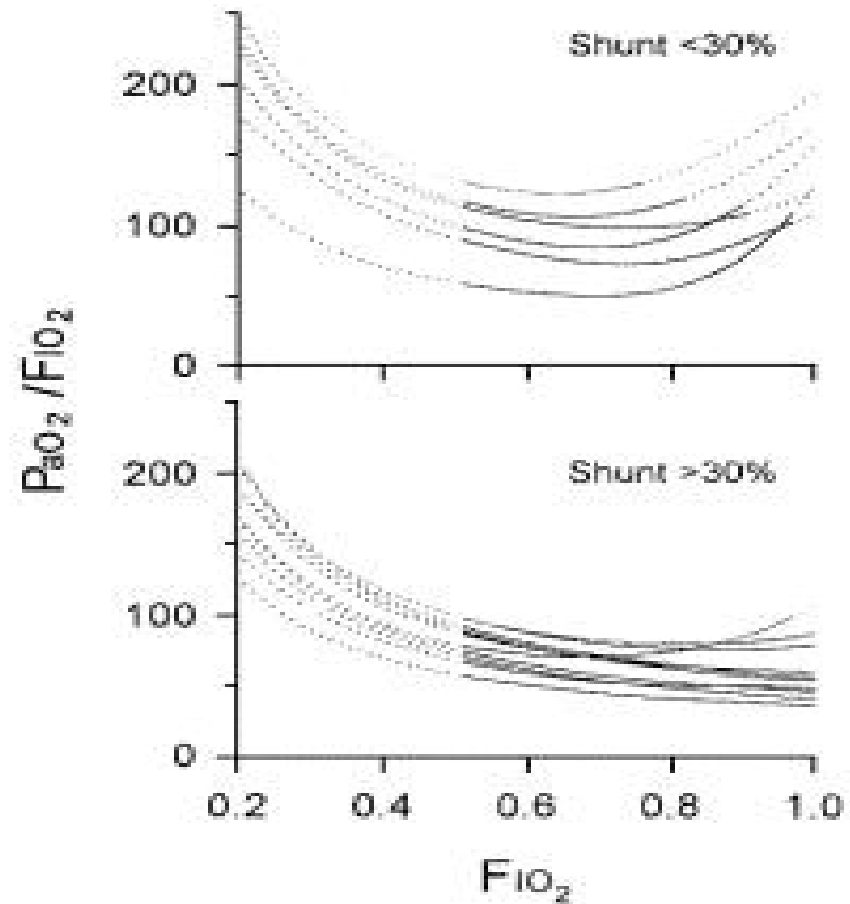


Hypoxemia quantified

- Not standardized the conditions when the $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ should be calculated
- $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio varied with ventilator setting and FiO_2 being used, and may improve with PEEP
- Other causes possible e.g. low cardiac output

Analyzed published ARDS cases

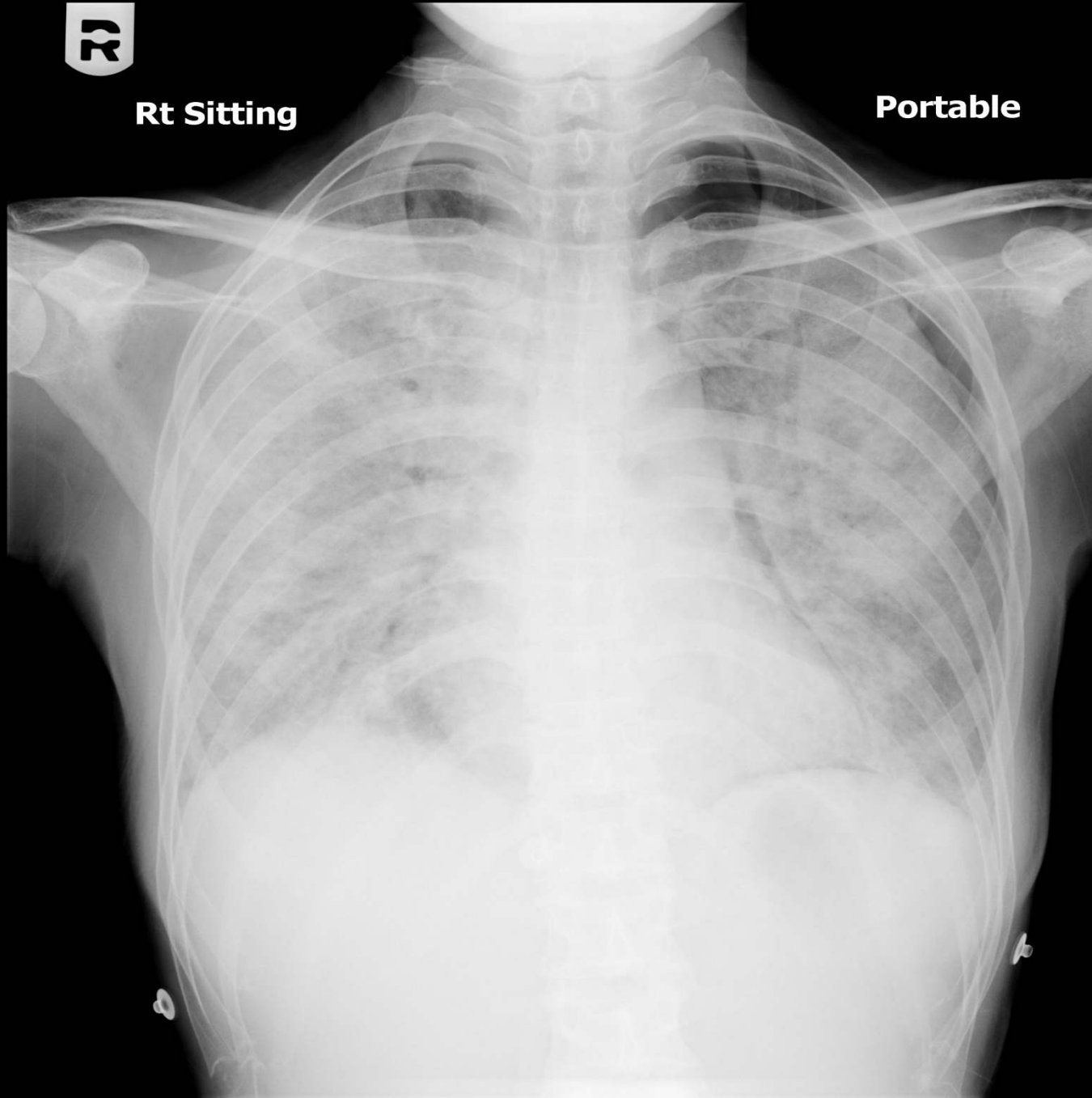
- With relatively low shunt
 - higher $\text{PaO}_2 / \text{FiO}_2$ ratio at the extreme of FiO_2
- With more shunt
 - Higher $\text{PaO}_2 / \text{FiO}_2$ at lower FiO_2



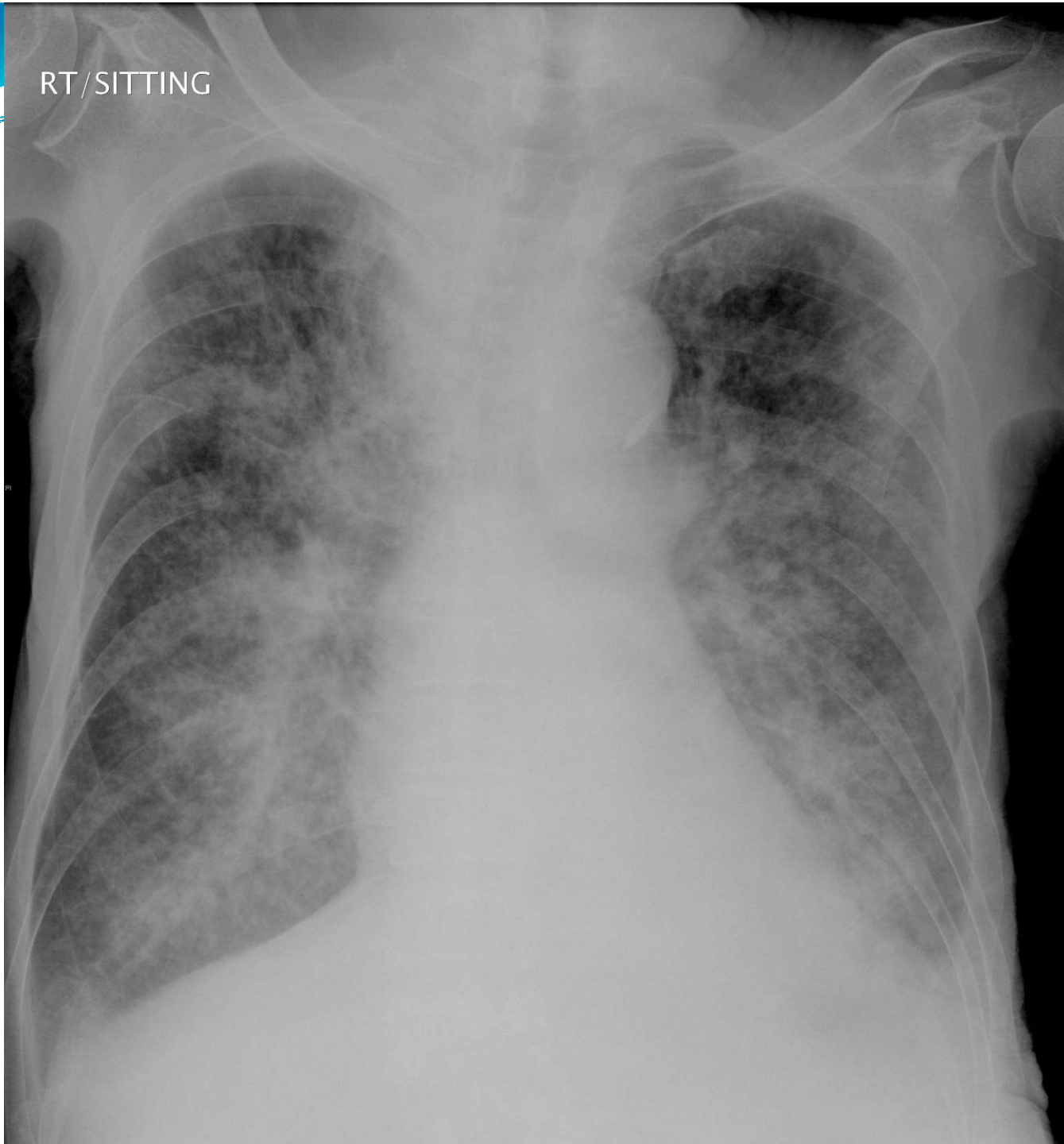


Rt Sitting

Portable



RT/SITTING





Bilateral infiltrates

- Great inter-observer variability in interpretation
- Infiltrates are not static
- No specified features



Cardiogenic cause be excluded

- Left atrial hypertension is so common in critically ill patient, its presence not excluding ARDS
- PCWP being out of favor
- PA catheter issues
 - optimal site
 - variable readings as affected by airway pressure



Berlin definition (2012)

- Timing: Within one week from known insult
- Imaging: Bilateral infiltrates
- Cause of pulmonary edema: not fully explained by CVS
- Hypoxemia while assessed with PEEP ≥ 5 cm H₂O:
 - mild: PaO₂/ FiO₂ 200 to 300 mmHg
 - moderate: PaO₂/ FiO₂ 100 to 200 mmHg
 - severe: PaO₂/ FiO₂ ≤ 100 mmHg

Predictive ability by Berlin definition

	ALI by AECC	ARDS by AECC	Mild by Berlin	Moderate by Berlin	Severe by Berlin
Progression from mild		34%		29%	4%
Progression from moderate					13%
Mortality	26%	37%	27%	32%	45%
Ventilator-free days	20 days	12 days	20 days	16 days	1 day
Ventilator-days for survivors	5 days	7 days	5 days	7 days	9 days



Pathophysiology

Occurs in stages

1. Exudative (Acute Phase)
2. Proliferative
3. Fibrotic
4. Recovery



Exudative Phase

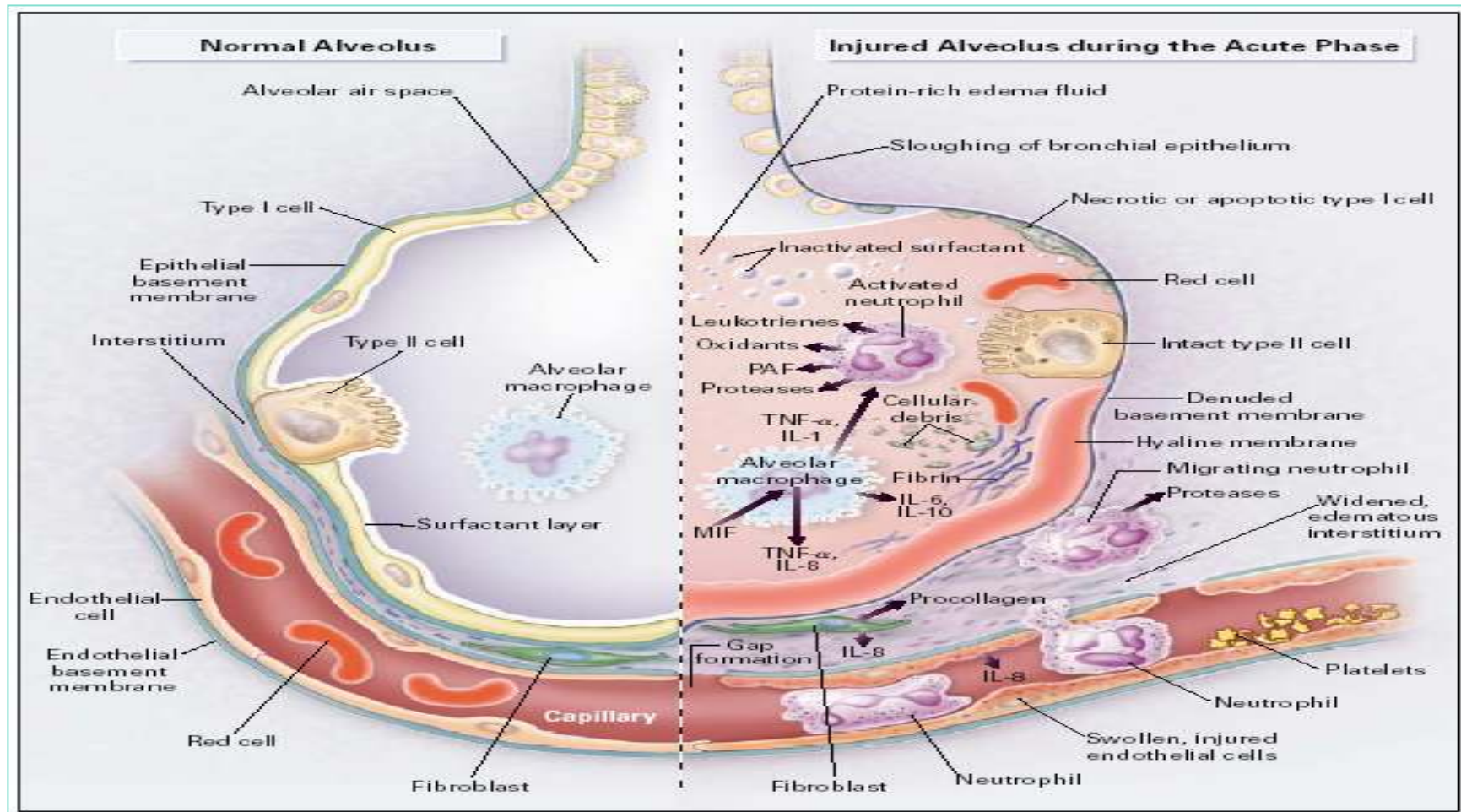
- Damage to epithelia resulting in increased permeability of the barrier
→ influx of protein-rich fluid into alveoli
- Injury of Type I cells results loss of epithelial integrity and fluid extravasation (edema)
- Injury of Type II cells then impairs the removal of the edema fluid



Exudative Phase

- Dysfunction of Type II cells also leads to reduced production and turnover of surfactant which leads to alveolar collapse
- If severe injury to epithelium occurs – disorganized/insufficient epithelial repair occurs resulting in fibrosis
- Role of dys-coagulation

Exudative Phase





Fibrotic Phase

- After acute phase, some patient will have uncomplicated course and rapid resolution
- Some cases will progress to fibrotic lung injury
- Such injury occurs histologically as early as 5-7 days



Fibrotic Phase Characteristics

- Intense inflammation leads to obliteration of the normal lung architecture
- Alveolar space is filled with mesenchymal cells and their products
- Re-epithelialization and new blood vessel formation occurs in disorganized manner
- Fibroblasts also proliferate, collagen is deposited resulting in thickening of interstitium



Proliferative Phase

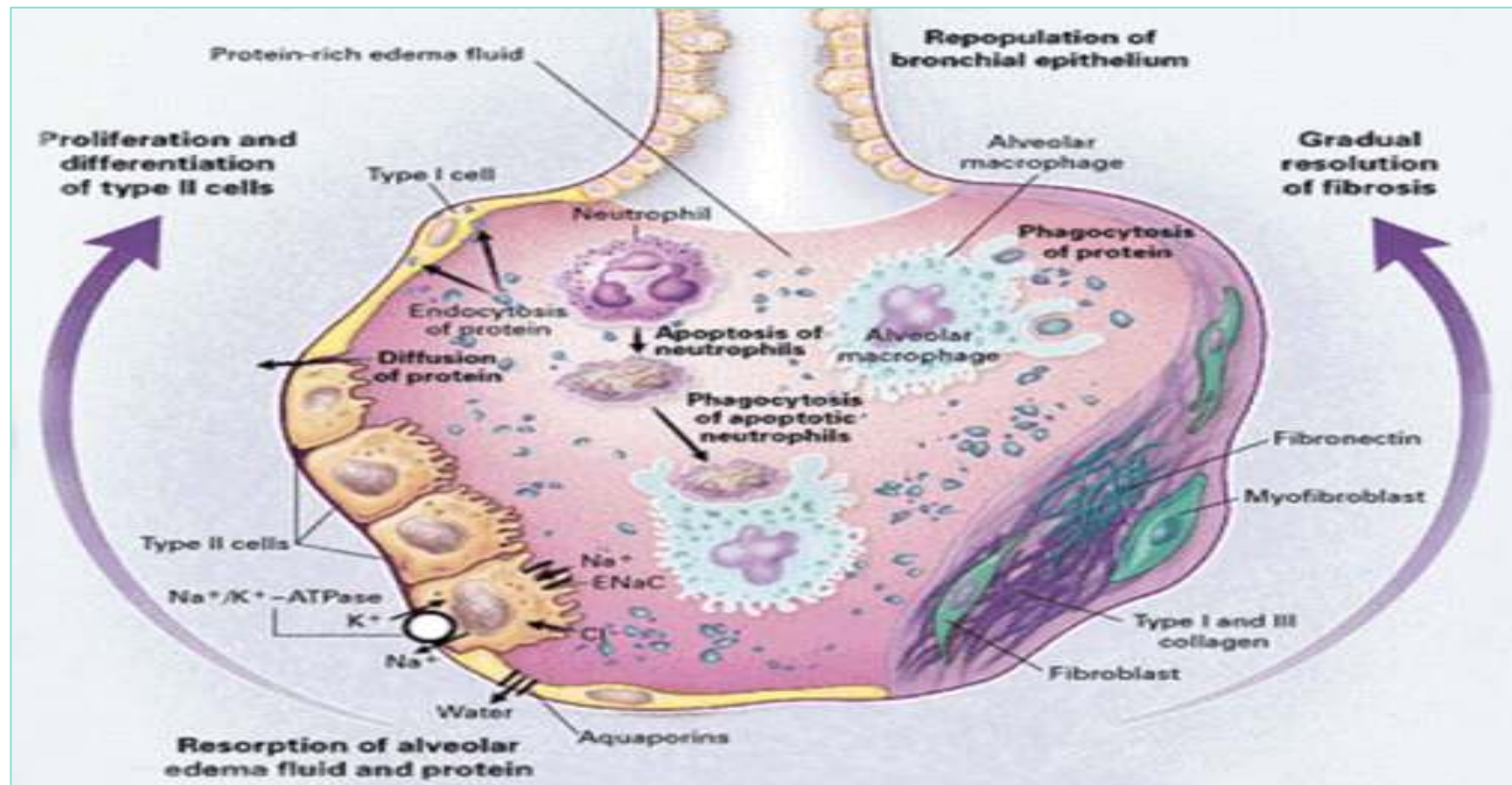
- With intervention (mechanical ventilation) there is clearance of alveolar fluid
- Soluble proteins are removed by diffusion between alveolar epithelial cells
- Insoluble proteins are removed by endocytosis and transcytosis through *epithelial cells* and phagocytosis through *macrophages*



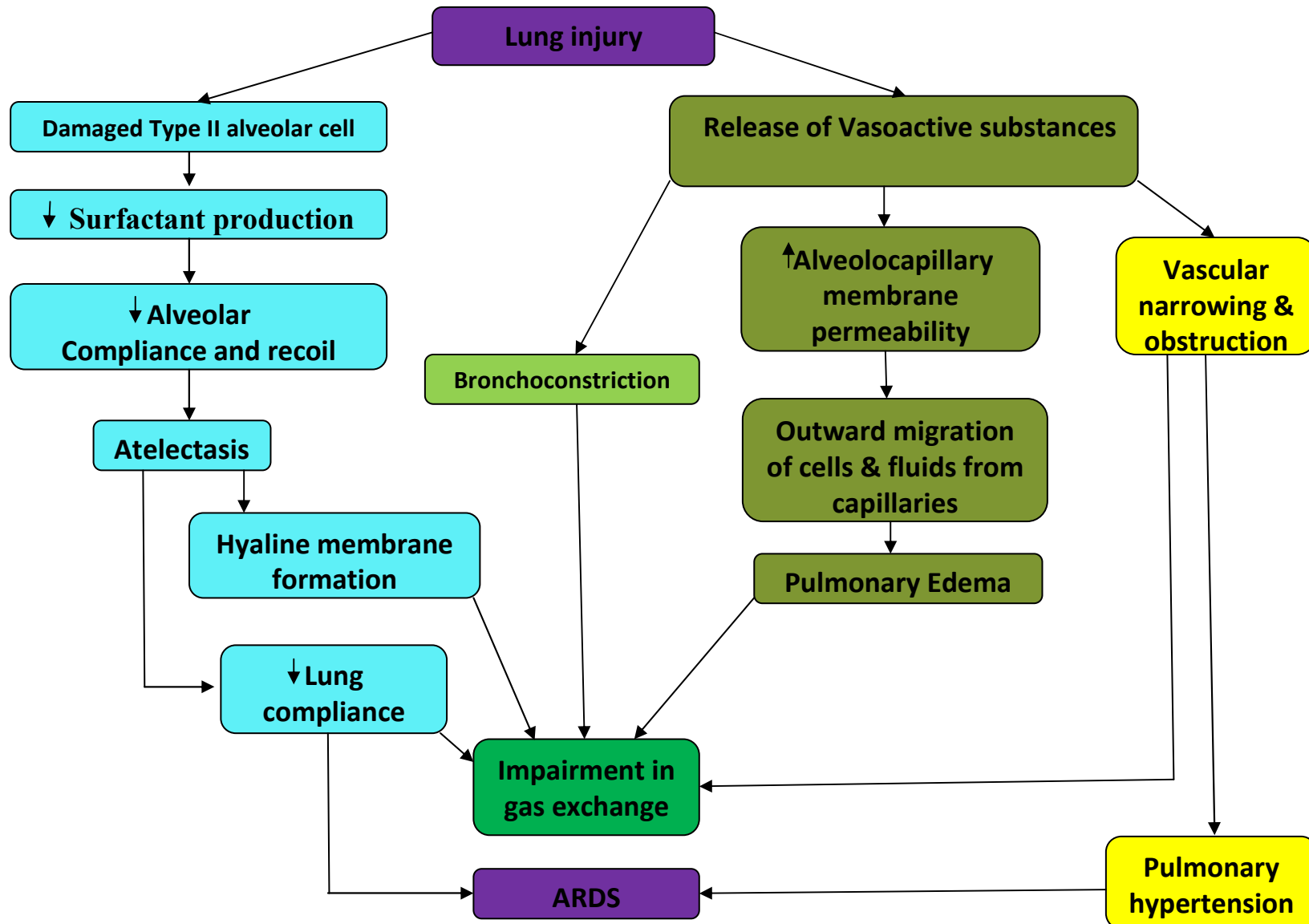
Proliferative Phase

- Type II cells begin to differentiate into Type I cells and re-epithelialize denuded alveolar epithelium
- Further epithelialization leads to increased alveolar clearance

Proliferative Phase



Simplified diagram of ARDS pathophysiology

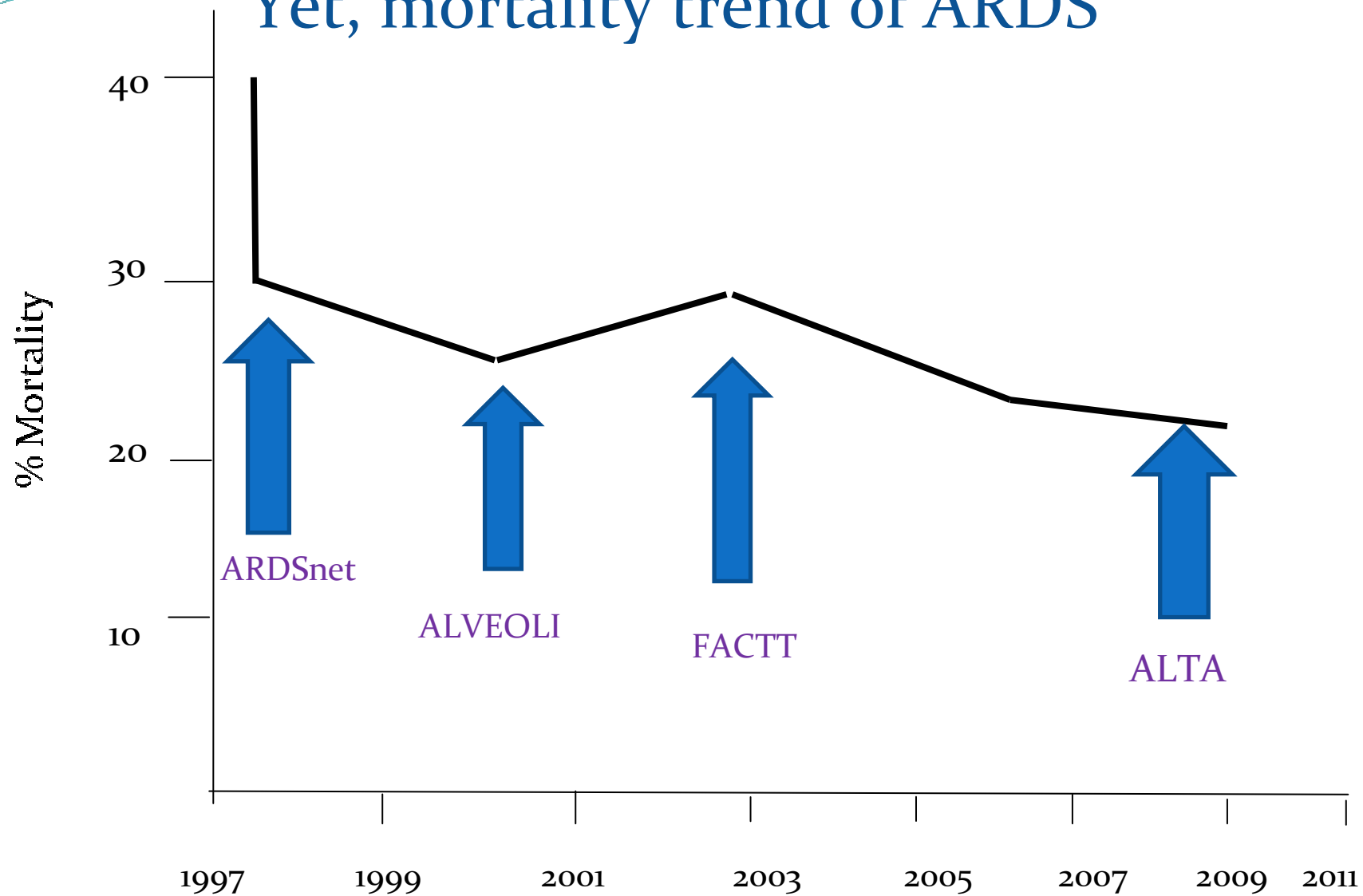




Do something to retard process

- Surfactant replacement
- Ketoconazole
 - Inhibit thromboxane A₂ which is important in platelet aggregation and neutrophil recruitment
- Lysofylline
 - Phosphodiesterase inhibitor with anti-inflammatory effect
- Sivelestat
 - Neutrophil elastase inhibitor
- N-acetylcysteine
 - Replenish Glutathione
- Steroid??

Yet, mortality trend of ARDS



Study Participants	ARDSNet 2000	Amato et al , 1998	Brochard et al , 1998	Stewart et al , 1998	Brower et al , 1999
No.	861	53	116	120	52
Mean age, y	52	35	57	59	49
Target Tidal volume (mL/kg)	6 vs. 12 PBW	≤6 vs. 12 ABW	6-10 vs. 10-15 DBW	≤8 vs. 10-15 IBW	≤8 vs. 10-12 PBW
Plateau pressure (cm H2O)	30≥vs.50 ≥	20>vs. unlimited	30-25vs.60 ≥	30≥vs.50≥	30≥vs.55-45≥
Actual Tidal volume (ml/ kg)	6.2vs. 11.8	384 vs. ± 768	7.1vs. 10.3	7.0vs. 10.7	7.3vs. 10.2
Plateau pressure (cm H2O)	25vs. 33	30vs. 37	26vs. 32	22vs. 27	25vs. 31
mortality% ,	31 vs. 40	38 vs. 71 .	47 vs. 38	50 vs. 47	50 vs. 46
P value	0.007	0.001	0.38	0.72	0.61

The New England Journal of Medicine

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VOLUME 342

MAY 4, 2000

NUMBER 18

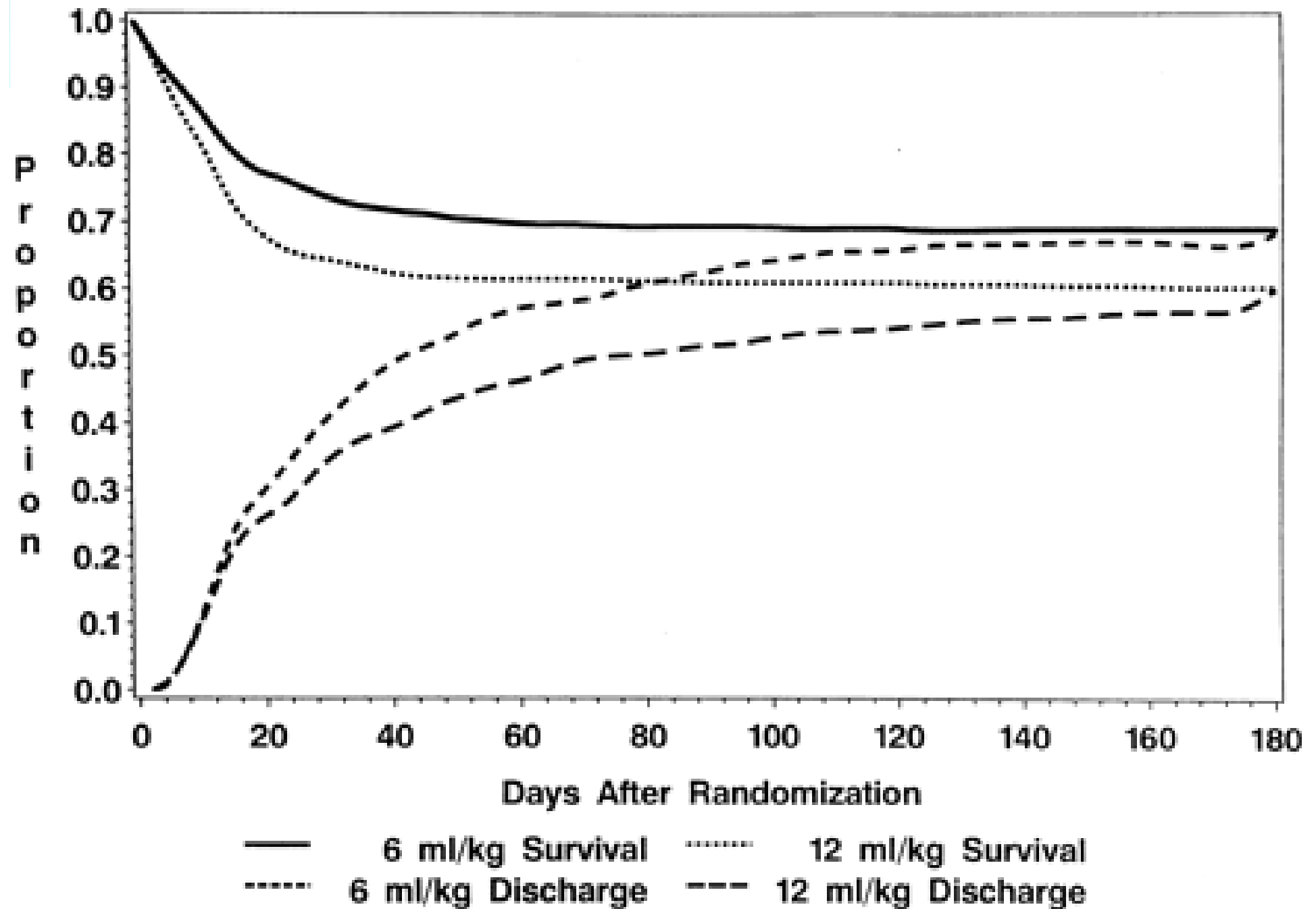


VENTILATION WITH LOWER TIDAL VOLUMES AS COMPARED WITH
TRADITIONAL TIDAL VOLUMES FOR ACUTE LUNG INJURY
AND THE ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME

THE ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME NETWORK*

- 
- 861 patients with ALI and ARDS
 - multicenter, randomized trial
 - Tidal volume : 6 ml/kg vs. 12 ml/kg
 - Mortality rate: 31.0% vs. 39.8% ($P=0.007$)
 - The number of days without ventilator use in the first 28 days: mean 12 ± 11 days vs. 10 ± 11 days ($P=0.007$)

Survival and Discharge to Home by Treatment





Details of ARMA protocol

- Initial tidal volume of 8 mL/kg of predicted body weight which is calculated by: $[2.3 * (\text{height in inches} - 60) + 45.5 \text{ for women or } + 50 \text{ for men}]$
- Set respiratory rate up to 35 breaths/min to deliver the expected minute ventilation requirement
- Set PEEP to at least 5 cm H₂O, and FiO₂ to maintain SaO₂ of 88-95%
- Over a period of less than 4 hours, reduce tidal volumes to 7 mL/kg, and then to 6 mL/kg.



Why low tidal volume helps

- In rats, more rapid resolution of alveolar edema

Frank AJRCCM 2002

- Down-regulate pro-inflammatory pathways, as evidenced by lower plasma levels of markers

Parsons CCM 2005

- May attenuate insult to other major organ

Imai JAMA 2003



Apart from small tidal volume

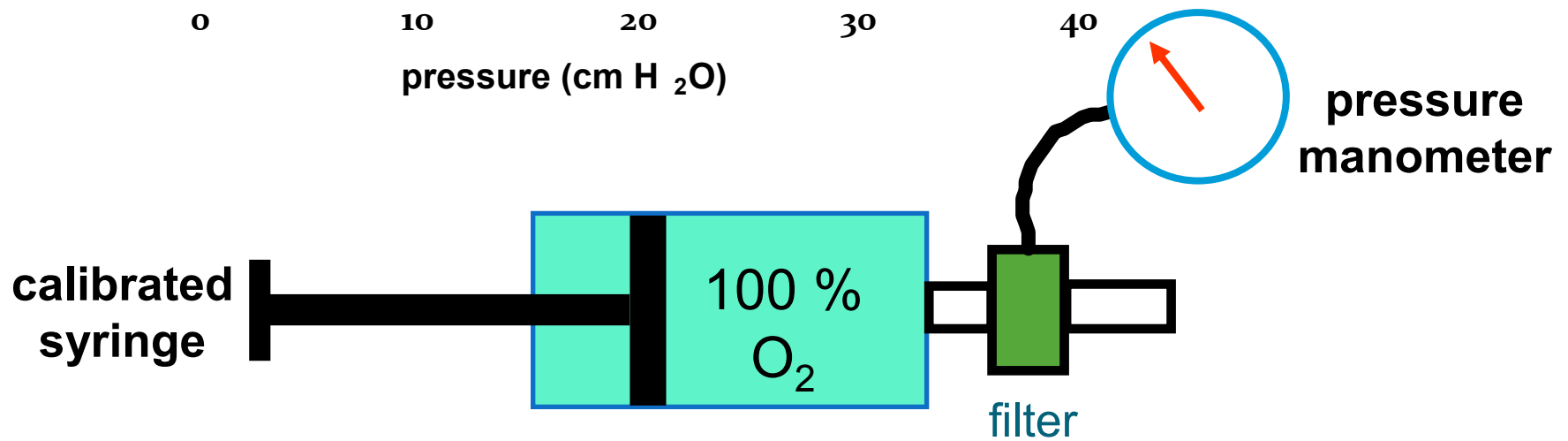
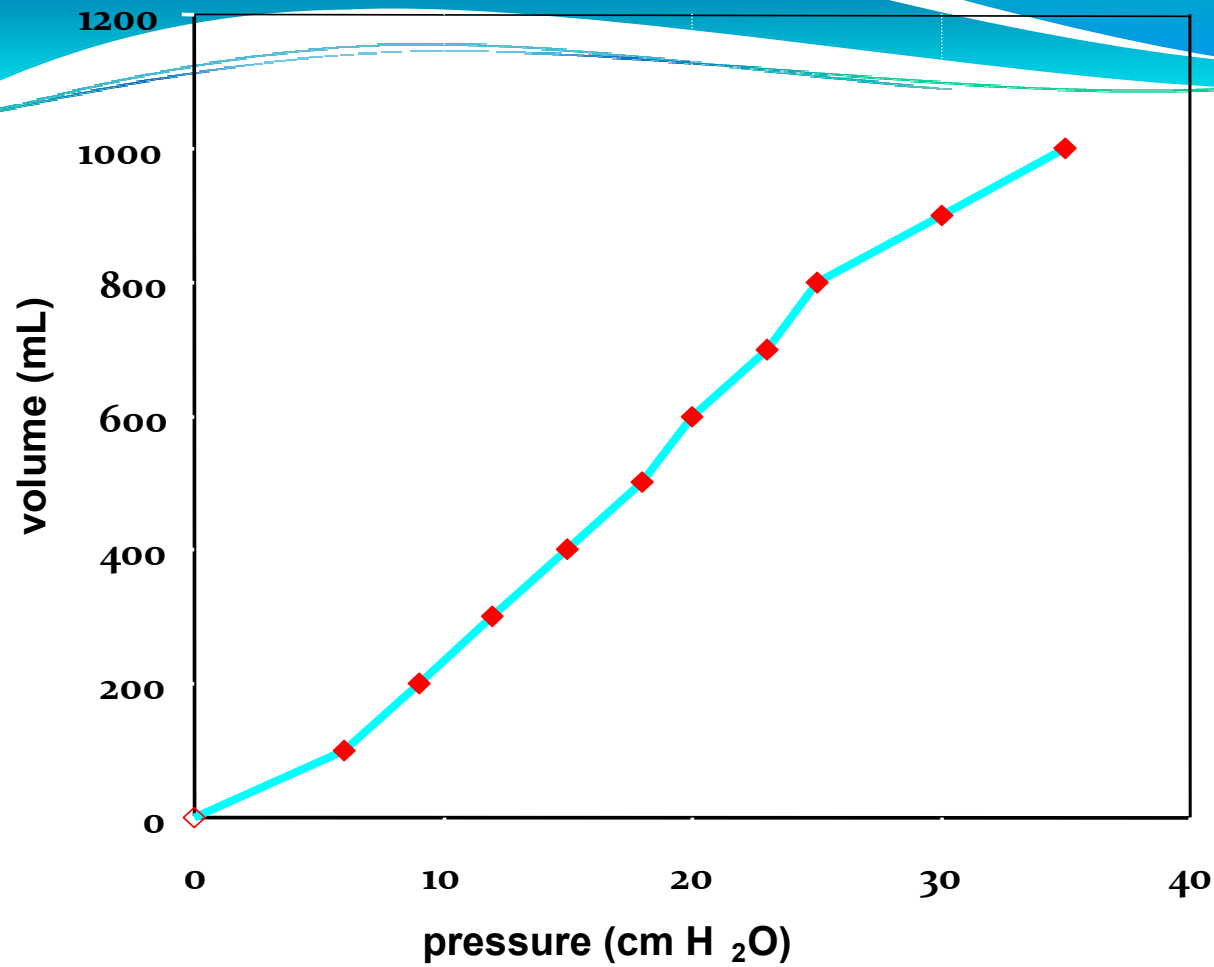
- High PEEP

- Help prevent atelectasis
- Help prevent alveolar collapse on exhalation
- May cause over-distension
- Improve oxygenation $\neq$ survival benefit
- **Difficulty to obtain an optimal PEEP**
- Haemodynamics concern

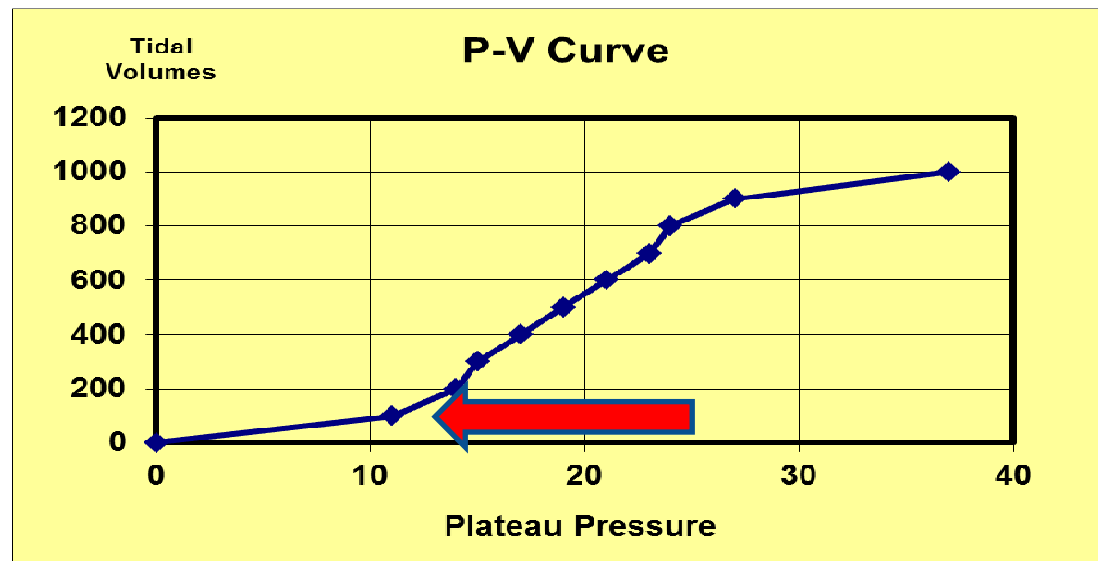


Obtaining the static P-V Curve

1. Pre-oxygenate
2. Set resp. rate to 5 per minute
3. Set PEEP to 0
4. Adjust peak flow
5. Change tidal volume (alternate small-large)
6. Set plateau for 1-2 sec. interval
7. Record plateau pressure
8. Return to previous vent settings and wait 1 min.



LIP represents the critical opening pressure of a large number of alveoli



- Set PEEP ≥ 2 cmH₂O above LIP



Problem of static PV curve

- Requires sedation and paralysis
- Rather labor-intensive
- The “Inflection points” may not be easily seen
- Problem to get rid of chest wall compliance
- Inter-observer variability can be as great as 11 cmH₂O

Scott AJRCCM 2000

What is the extent of the patient's lung injury?				What is the patient's chest wall (C_w) compliance?	
Target What FiO_2 is required to achieve this?				NORMAL	LOW -obesity -edema -abdominal hypertension
	FiO_2	Normal C_w Compliance PEEP in cmH_2O			Low C_w Compliance PEEP in cmH_2O
	0.3	5			10
	0.4	8			12
	0.5	10			14
	0.6*	12			16
	0.7*	14			18
	0.75*	16			20
	0.8*	18			22
	0.9*	20			22
	1*	22			24



High PEEP ?evidence

Studies	Sample size	Low PEEP	High PEEP	Death low PEEP	Death high PEEP	Ventilator-free days low PEEP	Ventilator-free days high PEEP
Brower 2004	549	8.3 ± 3.2	13.2 ± 3.5	24.9 %	27.5 %	14.5 ± 10.4	13.8 ± 10.6
Meade 2008	983	9.8 ± 2.7	14.6 ± 3.4	40.4 %	36.4 %	—	—
Mercat 2008	767	8.1 ± 2.0	15.1 ± 4.3	39.0%	35.4 %	7	3



High PEEP in conclusion

- Lacking consensus
- Physiology improvement
- Earlier weaning
- Mortality unaltered



Permissive hypercapnea

- How “permissive” can one be ?
 - Ventilated patients with ARDS appear to tolerate very low blood pH and very high pCO₂
 - Safe to allow pH to fall to **at least 7.20**.
 - The actual pCO₂ is of little importance.
- **Cautious in presence of**
 - Cerebral edema, mass lesions or seizures;
 - Active coronary artery disease; arrhythmias;
 - Hypovolemia; GI bleeding



ADJUNCTS IN TREATMENT OF ARDS

1. Ventilatory Strategies other than Lung Protective Strategy.
 - Recruitment/ NM blocker
 - Prone Ventilation
 - Liquid Ventilation
 - High Frequency Ventilation
 - Tracheal Gas Insufflation
 -
2. Hemodynamic Management – Fluids, Vasopressors
3. Surfactant replacement therapy.
4. Antioxidants – NAC
5. Anti-inflammatory Strategies.
 - a) Corticosteroids.
 - b) Cyclooxygenase & lipoxygenase inhibitors.
 - c) Lisofylline and pentoxifylline.

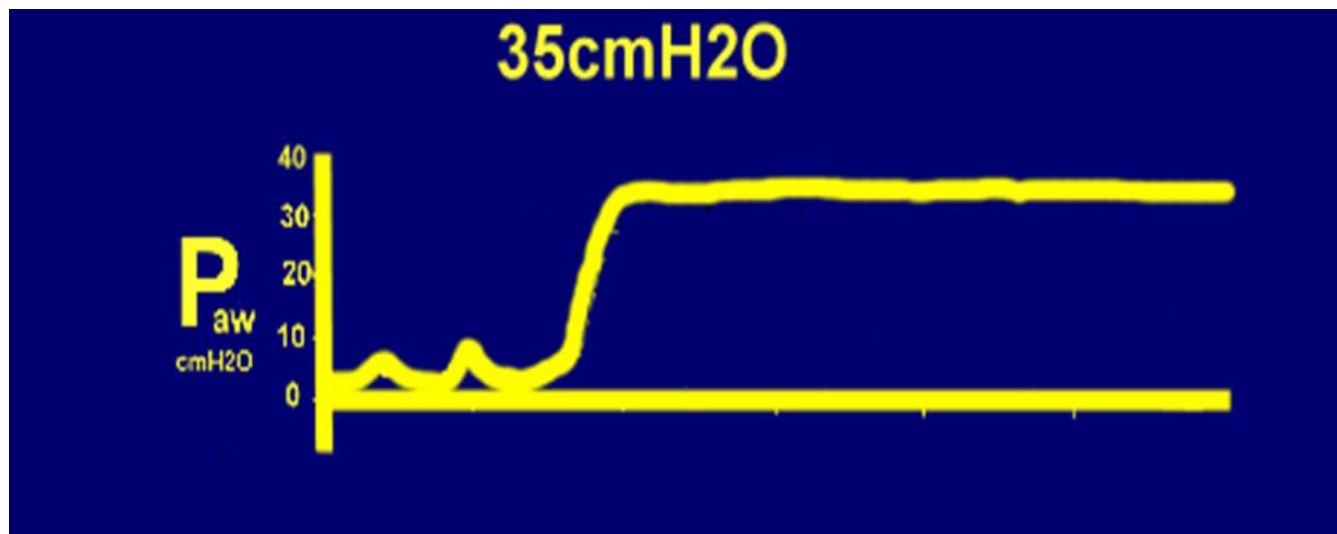


Adjunct: recruitment Maneuvers

- Apneic TLC maneuvers
- Non-apneic TLC maneuvers
- Sigh
- Inverse Ratio Ventilation
- Prone positioning

Apneic TLC maneuvers

- CPAP of 30 cm H₂O for 30 - 40 seconds.
- Monitor tidal volume and oxygenation for 15 - 30 min
- May repeat at 35-40 cmH₂O if needed





Non- apneic Lung Recruitment

- Resp rate 10/min
- I:E ratio = 1:1.
- PEEP 20 - 40 cm H₂O.
- PCV pressure 10-20 cm H₂O
- Apply for 45 sec. to 2 min.
- Monitor tidal volume and oxygenation for 15 - 30 min.
- If unresponsive, repeat at higher PEEP.



Use of Sighs

- 3 times hour
- Use a fixed tidal volume which produces a Plateau Pressure of 45 cm H₂O.
- Help resolve atelectasis in poorly ventilated lung
- May open units with opening pressures > 35 cmH₂O.

Pelosi, et al. AJRCCM 1999



Adjunct: Neuromuscular blocker

- Achieve better patient-ventilator synchrony
- Facilitate lung-protective mechanical ventilation
 - Easier adjustment tidal volume and pressure
- Reduced pro-inflammatory process and less systemic cytokine release
- ?Aggravates muscle weakness and prolongs weaning



RCT with NMB for 48 hours

- Papazian NEJM 2010
- Multi-center double-blind
- 340 patients randomized within 48 hours ARDS
- Cisatracurium for 48 hours as intervention arm
- Hazard ratio to die within 90 days 0.68, p 0.04
- Among those $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 < 150$, crude 90-day mortality 30.8% vs. 44.6% for control (p 0.04)
- No difference for acquired paralysis



PRONE VENTILATION

- Improves oxygenation – allows decrease Fio_2 and PEEP
 - But benefit Variable and not predictable
- Response rate – 50-70%
- Proposed mechanism
 - 1) Increase FRC
 - 2) Improved ventilation of previously dependent regions.
 - Weight of heart ? affect ventilation
 - Difference in diaphragmatic movement
 - supine : dorsal and ventral portion move symmetrically
 - prone : dorsal > ventral
 - 3) Improvement in Cardiac output
 - 4) Improves damaged lymphatics



Details of prone

- Consider if ARDS > 24 hrs./ 2nd day of ventilation
- Usually one time per day
- 2 to 20 hours/day.
- Outcome:
 - Improvement in oxygenation
 - Improvement in survival still needs evaluation



PROSEVA Study Group

- N Engl J Med 2013; 368:2159-2168
- ARDS patients ventilated for less than 36 hours;
- Severe cases (defined as a PaO₂:FiO₂ ratio of <150 mm Hg, with an FiO₂ of ≥0.6, a PEEP of ≥5 cm of water, and a tidal volume of about 6 ml/ kg of BW)
- Prone position for at least 16 consecutive hours
- Criteria for stopping prone treatment :
 - improvement in oxygenation (defined as a PaO₂:FiO₂ ratio of ≥150 mm Hg, with a PEEP of ≤10 cm of water and an FiO₂ of ≤0.6;
 - Decrease in the PaO₂:FiO₂ ratio of more than 20%, relative to the ratio in the supine position;
 - complications occurring during a prone session
- 229 in the supine group and 237 in the prone group

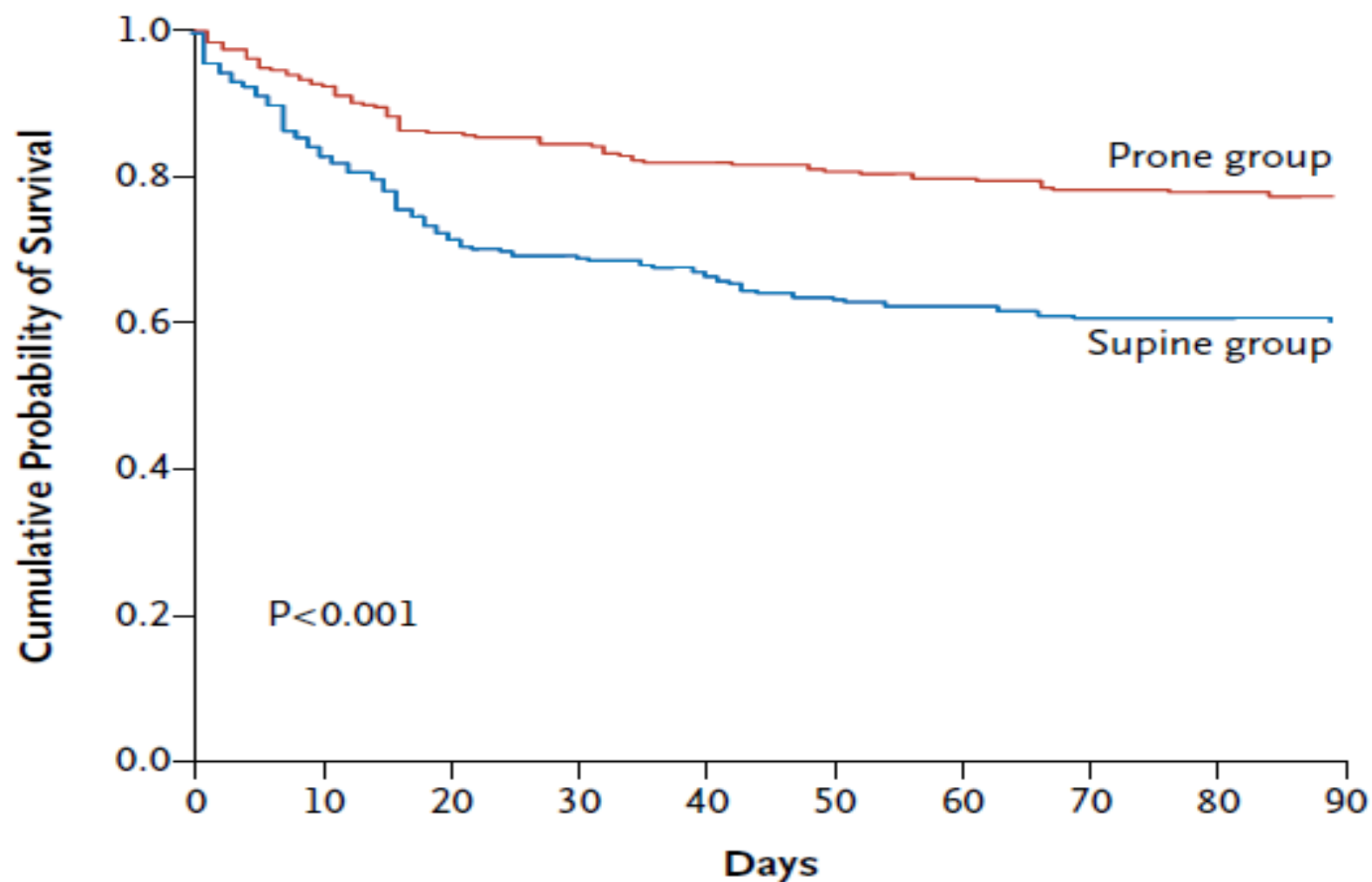


Results of PROSEVA Study

- Average number of prone sessions was 4 ± 4 per patient, and the mean duration per session was 17 ± 3 hours
- Use of rescue therapies in the supine and prone groups were 2.6% versus 0.8% for ECMO ($P=0.14$)
- Mortality at day 28 was significantly lower in the prone group than in the supine group: 16.0% (38 of 237 participants) versus 32.8% (75 of 229) ($P<0.001$)
- After adjustment for the SOFA score and the use of neuromuscular blockers and vasopressors at the time of inclusion, mortality remained significantly lower in the prone group than in the supine group

Table 2. Ventilator Settings, Respiratory-System Mechanics, and Results of Arterial Blood Gas Measurements at the Time of Inclusion in the Study.*

Variable	Supine Group (N = 229)	Prone Group (N = 237)
Tidal volume (ml)	381±66	384±63
Tidal volume (ml per kg of PBW)	6.1±0.6	6.1±0.6
Respiratory frequency (breaths per min)	27±5	27±5
PEEP (cm of water)	10±4	10±3
FIO ₂	0.79±0.16	0.79±0.16
Pplat _{RS} (cm of water)	23±5	24±5
Cst _{RS} (ml per cm of water)	35±15	36±23
Pao ₂ (mm Hg)	80±18	80±19
Pao ₂ :FIO ₂ (mm Hg)	100±20	100±30
Paco ₂ (mm Hg)	52±32	50±14
Arterial pH	7.30±0.10	7.30±0.10
Plasma bicarbonate (mmol per liter)†	25±5	25±5



No. at Risk

Prone group	237	202	191	186	182
Supine group	229	163	150	139	136

Figure 2. Kaplan–Meier Plot of the Probability of Survival from Randomization to Day 90.





Optimization of fluid

- Dilemma between adequate tissue perfusion of other vital organs and aggravating alveolar fluid accumulation/ pulmonary edema in ARDS
- Defective alveolar fluid clearance is one key pathophysiology process



Fluid and Catheter Treatment Trial

- NEJM 2006; 354: 2564-75
- ARDS clinical trials network
- Prospective randomized multi-center trial
- Included intubated patients with $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 < 300$
- Excluded patients with established ARDS more than 48 hours, and those with chronic conditions which may independently affect survival



Randomization

- One group with liberal fluid and another with conservative fluid management
- Simultaneously randomly assigned to receive PA catheter or central venous pressure monitor
- Hemodynamics management for 7 days or until 12 hours post-extubation
- Ventilated according to ARDS network protocol
- Weaning protocol used



Results of FACTT

- 503 patients in conservative fluid group and 498 patients in liberal fluid management
- Comparable demographics, percentage of pulmonary cause, APACHE III score and ventilation strategy
- 91% compliance rate to protocol in conservative fluid group, comparing to 88% in liberal group
- Seven-day cumulative fluid balance was -136 ± 491 ml in the conservative-strategy group, as compared with 6992 ± 502 ml in the liberal-strategy group ($P < 0.001$)
- Lower MAP for conservative group (81 vs. 84 mmHg)



Outcomes

	Conservative	Liberal	P value
6od Mortality (%)	25.5	28.4	0.30
Ventilator-free day (Day 1 – 28)	14.6 ± 0.5	12.1 ± 0.5	< 0.001
ICU-free day (Day 1 – 28)	13.4 ± 0.4	11.2 ± 0.4	< 0.001
6od Dialysis days	11.0 ± 1.7	10.9 ± 1.4	0.96
6od Dialysis patient (%)	10	14	0.06



What we learnt from FACTT

- Conservative fluid strategy led to insignificant reduction of mortality
- Conservative strategy improved lung function and shortened the duration of mechanical ventilation and intensive care without increasing non-pulmonary organ failures
- Choice between PA catheter and central venous pressure line is not the key issue





Role of beta2-agonist

- Beta-2 agonist acts on many cellular pathways involved in ARDS, reducing neutrophil sequestration and pro-inflammatory cytokines in vivo
- Epithelial cells beta-2 receptors activation leads to acceleration of sodium transport thus fluid absorption
- BALTI showed reduction of extravascular lung water and plateau airway pressure after salbutamol infusion
- ALTA prematurely stopped as aerosolized Albuterol led to futility in ventilator-free days reduction



BALTI 2

- Multi-center double-blinded, placebo-controlled
- 46 ICUs in UK
- Included intubated patients within 72 hour of ARDS
- Intervention group: 15 microgram/ kg ideal BW/ hour.
Rate adjusted according to protocol if tachycardia
>140. Aim at 7 days infusion
- Intention to treat analysis
- Primary outcome: mortality within 28 days



BALT 2 results

- Recruitment was stopped because interim analysis suggested more death in treatment group
- 162 patients at intervention and 164 at placebo group
- Median PaO₂/ FiO₂ in salbutamol infusion group is 103.5 ± 36.75 vs. 103.5 ± 36.75 for placebo
- Comparable demographics, APACHE II and percentage of pulmonary cause of ARDS



BALT 2 Outcomes

	Salbutamol	Placebo	RR or difference
28d mortality	34 ⁰ %	23 ⁰ %	1.47
Death in ICU	36%	28%	1.31
Ventilator-free days	8.5 ± 8.8	11.1 ± 9.3	-2.7 ± 2.0
Organ failure-free days	16.2 ± 10.7	18.5 ± 9.8	-2.3 ± 2.2
ICU stay	17.6 ± 14.3	17.1 ± 14.0	0.5
Tachycardia to stop treatment	14 ⁰ %	1%	11.71
Arrhythmia to stop treatment	9%	2%	4.75



What we learnt from BALT 2

- Early intravenous salbutamol infusion unlikely to help in ARDS
- Poorly tolerated
- Possible dose-related toxicity
- Causes of death uncertain

A photograph of a hospital room. A patient is lying in a bed in the center, partially covered by a blue blanket. The room is filled with medical equipment, including several IV stands with bags, monitors on the wall and on mobile carts, and various tubes and wires connected to the patient. The room has a clinical, somewhat cluttered appearance with white walls and a tiled floor.

■ 本港醫學界去年底以人工肺，拯救嚴重癱瘓併發肺功能衰竭的印度男子。
(受訪者提供圖片)

肺功能衰竭令其他器官壞死
人工肺吊命存活率七成

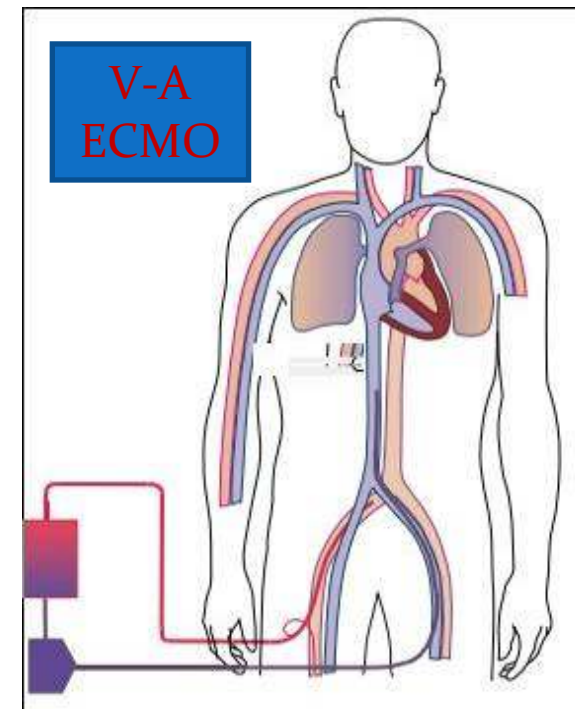
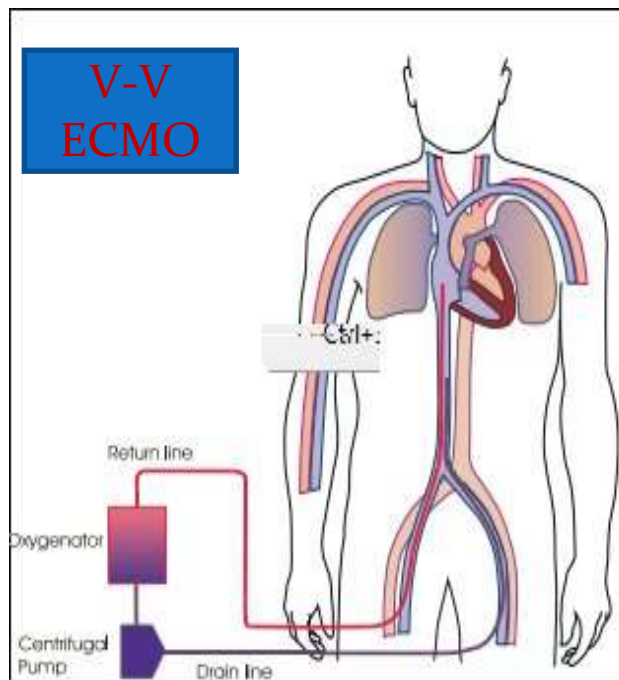
■ 自本港有七間醫院應理人工肺移植。包括威爾斯親王醫院、聯合醫院、東區醫院、屯門醫院、伊利沙伯醫院、慈安醫院和普仁醫院。連文賢說呼吸系統專科曾學過醫生性、肺炎、肺腺

除華盛頓往南加州普爾曼庫於南俄泊船，獲推選出之發覺肺功能衰弱或病。新裝住入人體的發覺流出血液、病人肺臟氣帶帶入血液、同時帶走血液中之二氧化碳，再將血液帶入肺部。其好處在於可讓病人「買時間」，令肺部復健過程，然後可拆除儀器。病人需同時使用呼吸機，維持肺部正常運作。但患者已出現多處器官衰竭，晚期患者如心臟、肺部缺缺等則不適用。病人於減壓使用人工肺時每日收費約 5 萬元，較使用傳統儀器更為昂貴。

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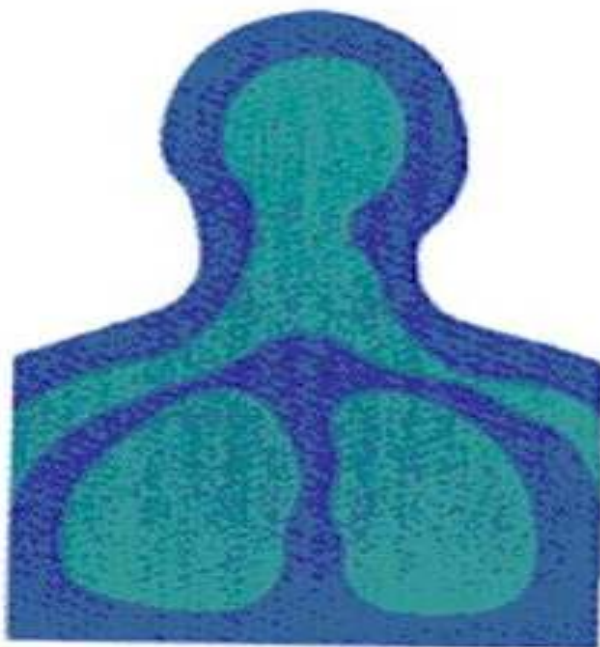


Types of ECMO





**C
E
S
A
R**



**Conventional Ventilation or
ECMO for
Severe
Adult
Respiratory Failure**



Inclusion criteria

- Age 18-65 years
- Reasonable long term outlook
- IPPV < 7 days
- Reversible pathology
- Optimal conventional treatment tried
- Murray score 3.0 or higher
- Uncompensated hyperpnoea with $\text{pH} < 7.2$



Exclusion criteria

- Had been on high peak inspiratory pressure > 30 cmH₂O or high FiO₂ > 0.8 for more than 7 days
- Contraindication for anticoagulation
- Contraindication for active treatment



Management

- Conventional group:
 - ◆ Specific management protocol not mandatory
 - ◆ Advised to ventilate at tidal volume of 4-8ml/kg BW
 - ◆ Keep plateau pressure less than 30cm H₂O
- ECMO group
 - ◆ 12 hours standard ARDS treatment protocol
 - ◆ If FiO₂ > 90% to achieve SaO₂ > 90% or respiratory acidosis with pH < 7.2, ECMO will be started
- 90 patients in each group
 - 68 (75%) actually put on ECMO



Outcomes in CESAR

- Among 90 patients in ECMO group, 63% survived to 6 months compared to 47% in conventional group (RR 0.69; $p=0.03$).
- Number needed to treat for one extra survival is 6



Cost estimation

- Median length of stay of adult ECMO patients is 14 days (range 0-41days). Ideally specialist to patient ration 2:1
- Daily cost for conventional care for severe respiratory failure is £1500 -£2300 (Sheffield Health care costing system)
- Total cost per case £27000 - £63000





Future direction

- **ECMO**
 - Best population and longterm outlook
- **Immunonutrition**
 - Fish oil enriched formula
- **Exogenous surfactants**
 - Extrapolate benefit from newborn/ infant
- **Gene therapy**
 - Target Na/K/ATPase, anti-inflammatory cytokines
- **Mesenchymal stem cells**
 - Ex vivo human lung models: improved alveolar fluid clearance



Conclusion

- ARDS is still evolving in definition and case finding
- Lung protective strategy improves survival
- Significant controversy in optimal PEEP
- Specific agent to halt the process is unknown
- Adjunct appears important, including fluid management optimization
- ECMO provides another option which however requires close follow of the long term outlook
- Future studies for innovative treatment is needed