



# ARDS Management Protocol



February 2018

## ARDS Criteria

Onset Within 1 week of a known clinical insult or new or worsening respiratory symptoms

Bilateral opacities—not fully explained by effusions, lobar/lung collapse, or nodules

Respiratory failure not fully explained by cardiac failure or fluid overload Need objective assessment (eg, echocardiography) to exclude hydrostatic edema if no risk factor present

$\text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 300$  mm Hg with PEEP or CPAP  $\geq 5$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O

## Severity of Illness

Mid:  $200 \text{ mm Hg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 300$  mm Hg with PEEP or CPAP  $\geq 5$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O

Moderate:  $100 \text{ mm Hg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 200$  mm Hg with PEEP  $\geq 5$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O

Severe:  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 100$  mm Hg with PEEP  $\geq 5$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O

## Calculations

Calculate Ideal Body Weight (IBW):

Men =  $50 + [(\text{height (cm)} - 154) \times 0.9]$

Women =  $45.5 + [(\text{height (cm)} - 154) \times 0.9]$

Desired minute ventilation (MV) =  $\text{IBW} \times 125$

## A Set Targets

Tidal volume 4-6 ml/kg of IBW

Plateau pressure:  $<30$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O (preferably  $<28$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O), may accept higher plateau if patient has stiff chest wall or abdominal limitation (e.g., with massive ascites, large pleural effusion or obese patients)

Driving pressure  $< 15$  cm H<sub>2</sub>O

pH: 7.25-7.45

$\text{PaO}_2$  55-80 mmHg or  $\text{SpO}_2$  88-95% and  $\text{FiO}_2 \leq 60\%$

## 1 Volume Control Mode

Pressure Regulation Mode (PRVC, CMV with autoflow, AC+, or APVcmv)

Set volume at 6 mL/kg of IBW

Decrease volume at 1 mL/kg to achieve the set plateau pressure goal

Set pressure alarm limit 37-50 cm H<sub>2</sub>O (dependent on the type of ventilator)

Set rate at desired minute ventilation/VT: The respiratory rate will be set to avoid air trapping whenever possible as determined by the inspection of the flow tracing and/or measurements of intrinsic PEEP.

Adjust rate for the pH goal

**1** Pressure Control Mode

Set pressure control less than 30

Adjust pressure to maintain VT 4-6 mL/kg of IBW

Set rate at desired minute ventilation/VT: The respiratory rate will be set to avoid air trapping whenever possible as determined by the inspection of the flow tracing and/or measurements of intrinsic PEEP.

**1** PEEP Titration: Low PEEP/FiO<sub>2</sub> Table

<b>FiO<sub>2</sub>%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
PEEP (cm H <sub>2</sub> O)	5	5	8	8	10	10	10	12	14	14	14	16	18	18-24

**2** PEEP Titration: High PEEP/FiO<sub>2</sub> Table

<b>FiO<sub>2</sub>%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50-80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
PEEP (cm H <sub>2</sub> O)	5	8	10	12	14	14	16	16	18	20	14	22	22	22	24

**3** Paralysis

Use within the first 48 hours  
 Severe ARDS with PEEP/FiO<sub>2</sub> <150  
 Intravenous injection of 20 mg of cisatracurium (may repeat if a decrease of the end-inspiratory plateau pressure by less than 2 cm of water was noticed)  
 May use continuous infusion for paralysis  
 Ensure adequate sedation with RASS -4 to -5

**3** Recruitment Maneuver

Moderate or severe ARDS  
 Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) mode and increase the pressure to 30–40 cmH<sub>2</sub>O for 30–40 s  
 Monitor hemodynamics and possibility of pneumothorax  
 Caution in patients with preexisting hypovolemia or shock

**4** Esophageal Pressure Monitoring

Moderate to severe ARDS or conditions with increase thoracic or intraabdominal pressures, (i.e obesity)

**B** Transpulmonary Pressure Targets

Transpulmonary pressure in inspiration (Insp PL) <30

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Transpulmonary pressure in expiration (Exp PL): 0-10  
Transpulmonary driving pressure (True Driving Pressure: DPtp) <15

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Contraindication to prone position

Increased ICP  
Massive hemoptysis  
Tracheal surgery or sternotomy <2 weeks  
Facial trauma or surgery < 2 weeks including neck trauma or spinal instability  
Pregnancy  
DVT treated < 2days  
large ventral surface burn  
Cardiac pacemaker inserted < 2days  
Unstable spine, pelvic, or femur fracture  
Morbid obesity  
Patients at high risk of requiring CPR or defibrillation  
Staff judgement

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Trial of prone position

Who to place in prone position?

- Patients with severe ARDS (PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> < 150 mm Hg)
- Early in the course (ideally within 48 h)
- Best outcomes reported when prone positioning is used in combination with both low tidal volume ventilation (6 cc/kg) and neuromuscular blockade

How to place patient in prone position?

- Requires 3-5 people, close attention to endotracheal tube (ETT) and central lines
- Preparation: preoxygenation, empty stomach, suction ETT/oral cavity, remove ECG leads and reattach to back, repeated zeroing of hemodynamic transducers
- Support and frequently reposition pressure points: face, shoulder, anterior pelvis

How long to have patient in prone position each day?

- Successful trials use at least 16 hours of daily proning
- Long prone positioning sessions likely avoid derecruitment

When to stop?

- In PROSEVA, prone positioning was stopped when PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> remained > 150 mm Hg 4 h after supinating (with PEEP < 10 cm H<sub>2</sub>O and FiO<sub>2</sub> < 0.6)
- Optimal strategy is unclear: consider continuing prone positioning until clear improvement in gas exchange, mechanics, and overall clinical course.

Potential complications

- Temporary increase in oral and tracheal secretions occluding airway
  - ETT migration or kinking
  - Vascular catheter kinking
  - Elevated intraabdominal pressure
  - Increased gastric residuals
  - Facial pressure ulcers, facial edema, lip trauma from ETT, brachial plexus injury (arm extension)
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**D****ECMO Eligibility**

Severe hypoxemia (PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> ratio <80 mmHg) despite conventional and appropriate therapies for at least 6 hours in acute reversible lung disease  
 Uncompensated hypercapnia with acidemia (pH <7.15) despite best accepted standard of ventilatory care.  
 Presence of excessively high end-inspiratory plateau pressures (>35 cm H<sub>2</sub>O) despite best accepted standard of ventilatory care.  
 No terminal disease (expected survival >6 months)  
 Intact neurological status  
 No limited vascular access  
 Respiratory support < 7 days (relative)

**6****ECMO**

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMct1103720>

**8****APRV**

High airway pressure (P<sub>high</sub>) at the P<sub>plat</sub> measured at the previous VCV settings +5 (not to exceed 30 cmH<sub>2</sub>O)  
 Low airway pressure (P<sub>low</sub>) at 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O (minimal pressure level was used to prevent atelectasis per standard practice)  
 Duration of release phase (T<sub>low</sub>) at one- to 1.5-fold the expiratory time constant, and then adjust to achieve a termination of peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR) of ≥50% of PEFR  
 Release frequency at 10–14 frequency/min  
 Duration of P<sub>high</sub> (T<sub>high</sub>) is indirectly calculated based on the T<sub>low</sub> and release frequency  
 Spontaneous respiratory level targeted as spontaneous minute ventilation (MV<sub>spont</sub>), approximately 30% total minute ventilation (MV<sub>total</sub>)

**8****HFV**

Bias flow 40 L/min  
 Inspiratory time 33%  
 mPaw 30 cm H<sub>2</sub>O  
 FIO<sub>2</sub> 1.0  
 Amplitude (delta P) 90 cm H<sub>2</sub>O.  
 Initial frequency based on most recent arterial blood gas:
 

- pH <7.10 = 4 Hz
- pH 7.10–7.19 = 5 Hz
- pH 7.20–7.35 = 6 Hz
- pH >7.35 = 7 Hz

**8****Vasodilators: epoprostenol (aEPO)**

Initiate aEPO at 50 ng/kg/min (based on ideal body weight – IBW, rounded to nearest 10kg) via continuous nebulization with nebulizer connected to the ventilator  
 aEPO should be titrated downward every 30 minutes as tolerated to 10 ng/kg/min based on PaO<sub>2</sub> improvement.  
 Do NOT decrease aEPO by more than 10 ng/kg/min every 30 minutes

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<https://www.universityhealthsystem.com/~media/files/clinical-pathways/inhaled-epoprostenol-guideline-1114.pdf?la=en>

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Tracheal Gas Insufflation (TGI)

<https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1164/ajrccm.162.2.9910111>

ARDS Criteria

