

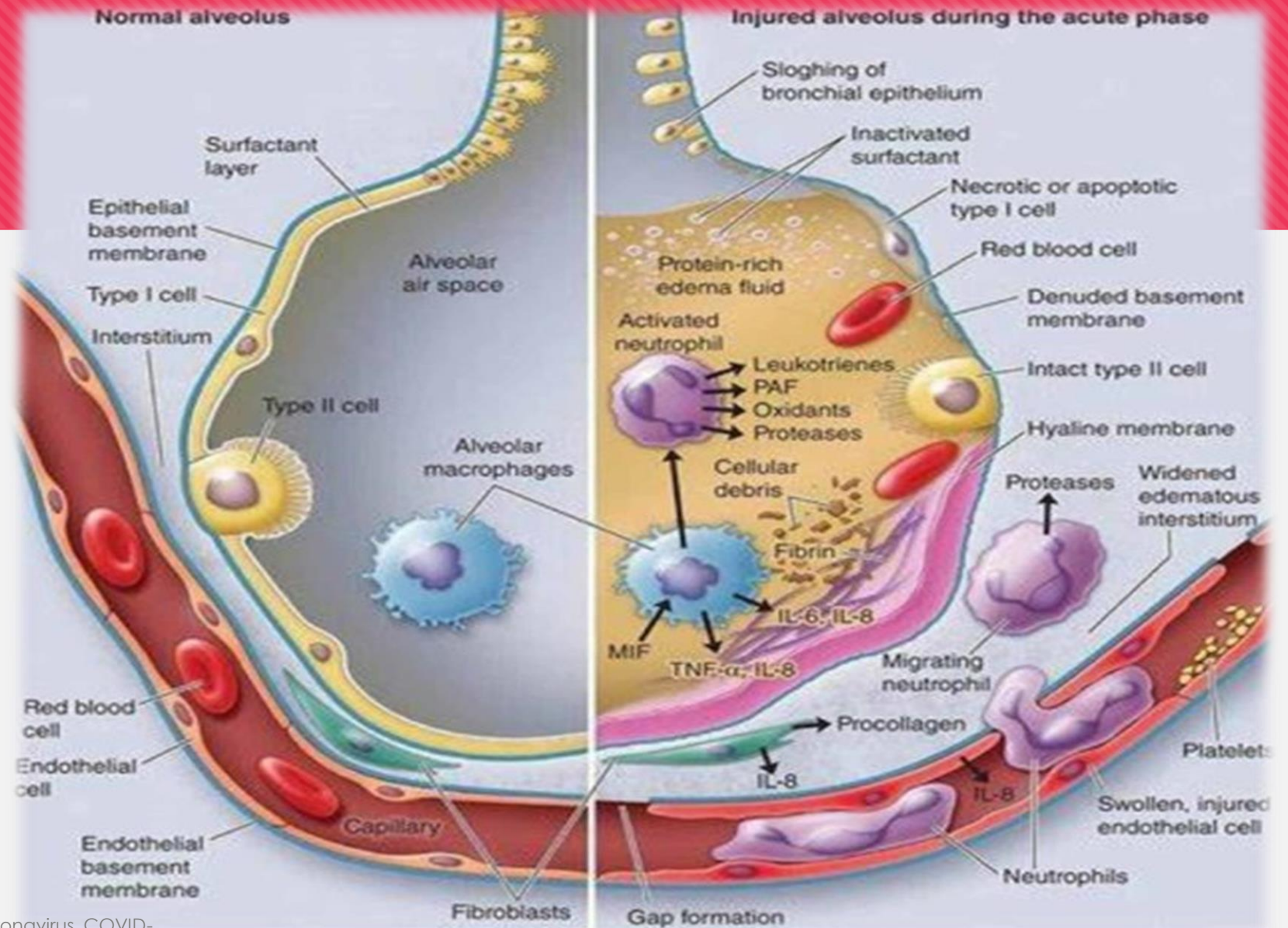
# Permissive hypercapnia in ARDS

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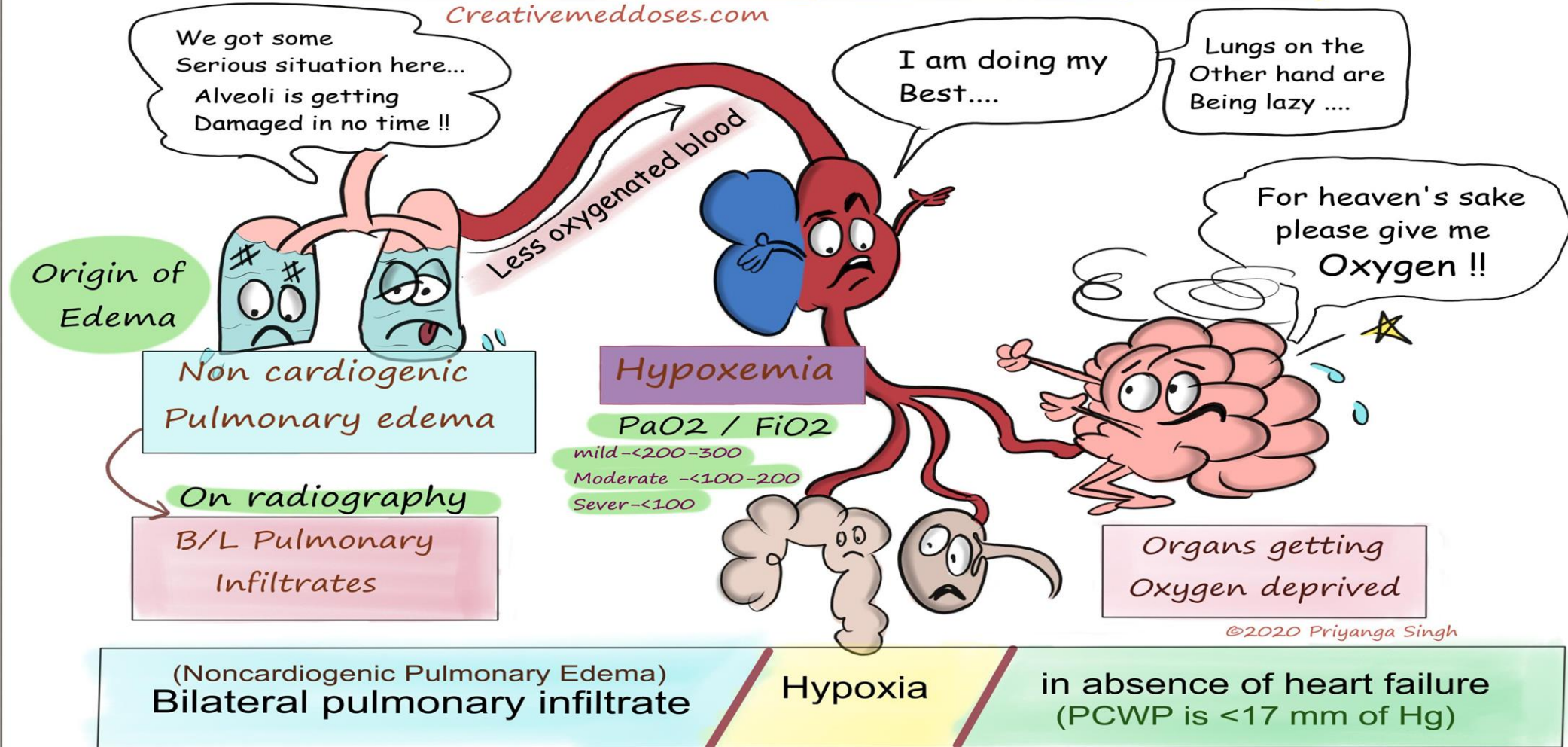


## ○ PATHOPHYSIOLOGY



# ARDS: The Definition

Creativemeddoses.com

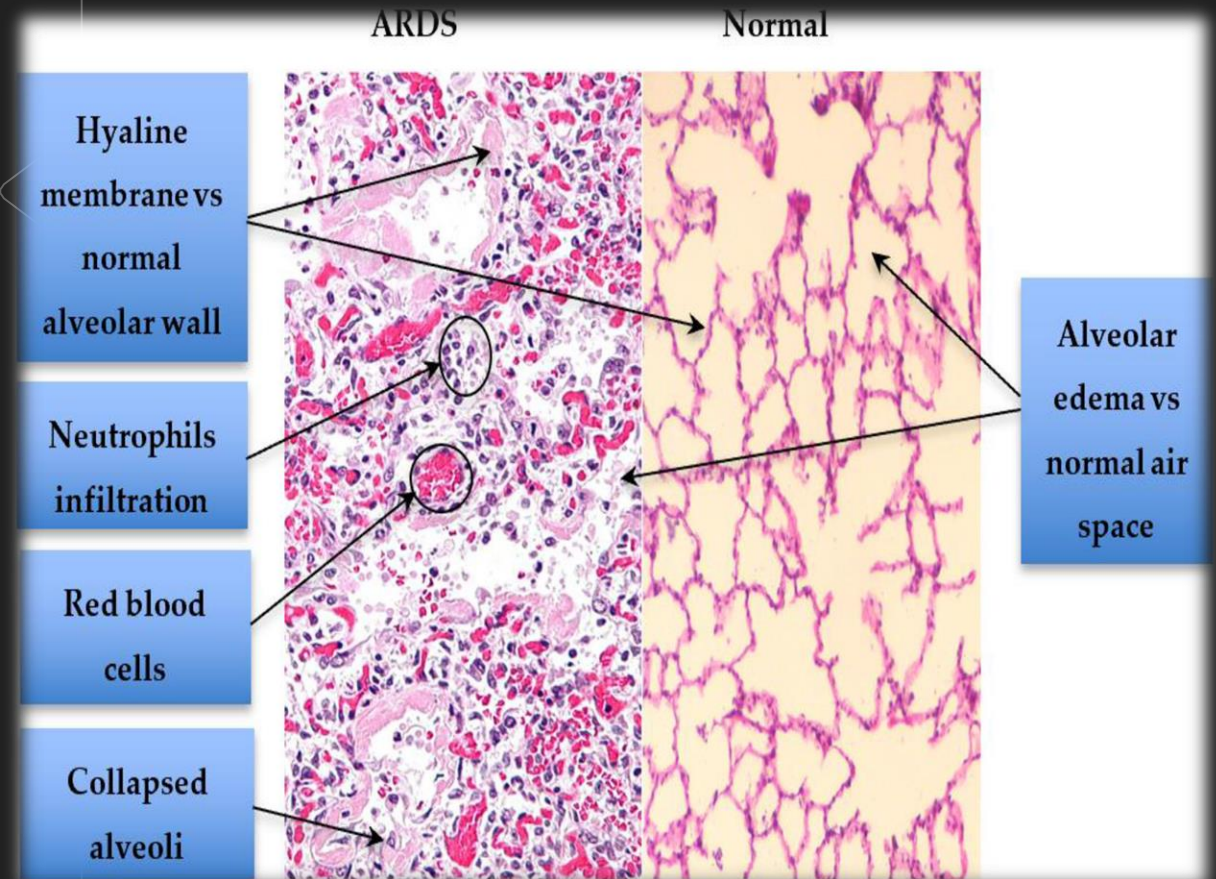


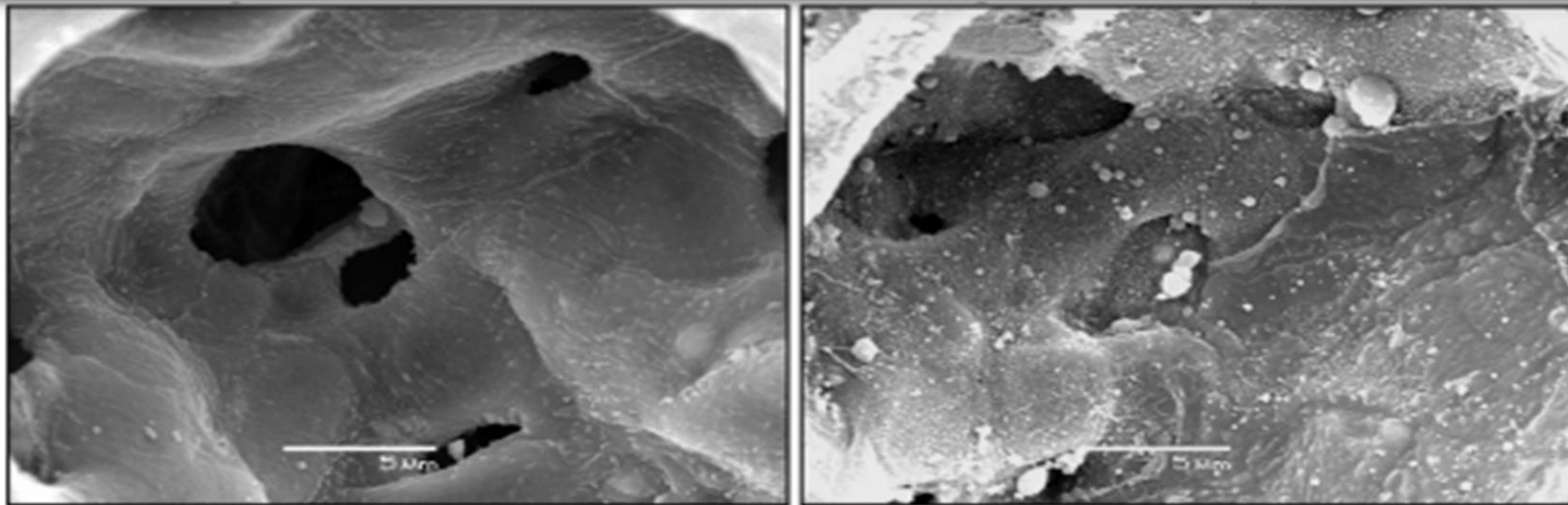


# IS IT THAT MUCH EASY?

## VENTILATOR-INDUCED LUNG INJURY

- Barotrauma
- Oxygen toxicity
- Volutrauma
- Atelectrauma
- Biotrauma





**Figure 3** Scanning electron micrograph depicting an undamaged alveolar surface (right panel) and fragmented alveolar epithelium (left panel) caused by two hours of ventilation at high tidal volumes and zero end expiratory pressure. Reproduced with permission from Hamlington *et al.* (88).

Ventilate for  
adequate  
oxygenation  
and normal  
CO<sub>2</sub> levels



Prevent  
ventilator  
induced lung  
injury

# NHLBI ARDS NETWORK Mechanical Ventilation Protocol

- Low tidal volume ventilation = 6cc/kg (of ideal body weight)
- Pplat (airway pressure) = determined by a 1-second hold maneuver with the ventilator of less than 30 mm Hg
- Utilization of higher PEEP (minimum of 14 at 48 hours) and low FIO2 strategies
- Goal SpO2 88% to 95% and avoidance of hyperoxemia



NIH NHLBI ARDS Clinical Network  
Mechanical Ventilation Protocol Summary

## INCLUSION CRITERIA: Acute onset of

1.  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 \leq 300$  (corrected for altitude)
2. Bilateral (patchy, diffuse, or homogeneous) infiltrates consistent with pulmonary edema
3. No clinical evidence of left atrial hypertension

## PART I: VENTILATOR SETUP AND ADJUSTMENT

1. Calculate predicted body weight (PBW)  
Males =  $50 + 2.3 [\text{height (inches)} - 60]$   
Females =  $45.5 + 2.3 [\text{height (inches)} - 60]$
2. Select any ventilator mode
3. Set ventilator settings to achieve initial  $V_T = 8 \text{ ml/kg PBW}$
4. Reduce  $V_T$  by 1 ml/kg at intervals  $\leq 2$  hours until  $V_T = 6 \text{ ml/kg PBW}$ .
5. Set initial rate to approximate baseline minute ventilation (not  $> 35 \text{ bpm}$ ).
6. Adjust  $V_T$  and RR to achieve pH and plateau pressure goals below.

**OXYGENATION GOAL:**  $\text{PaO}_2$  55-80 mmHg or  $\text{SpO}_2$  88-95%  
Use a minimum PEEP of 5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O. Consider use of incremental  $\text{FiO}_2$ /PEEP combinations such as shown below (not required) to achieve goal.

### Lower PEEP/higher $\text{FiO}_2$

$\text{FiO}_2$	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
PEEP	5	5	8	8	10	10	10	12

$\text{FiO}_2$	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
PEEP	14	14	14	16	18	18-24

### Higher PEEP/lower $\text{FiO}_2$

$\text{FiO}_2$	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
PEEP	5	8	10	12	14	14	16	16

$\text{FiO}_2$	0.5	0.5-0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0
PEEP	18	20	22	22	22	24

## PLATEAU PRESSURE GOAL: $\leq 30 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$

Check Pplat (0.5 second inspiratory pause), at least q 4h and after each change in PEEP or  $V_T$ .

If  $\text{Pplat} > 30 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$ : decrease  $V_T$  by 1ml/kg steps (minimum = 4 ml/kg).

If  $\text{Pplat} < 25 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$  and  $V_T < 6 \text{ ml/kg}$ , increase  $V_T$  by 1 ml/kg until  $\text{Pplat} > 25 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$  or  $V_T = 6 \text{ ml/kg}$ .

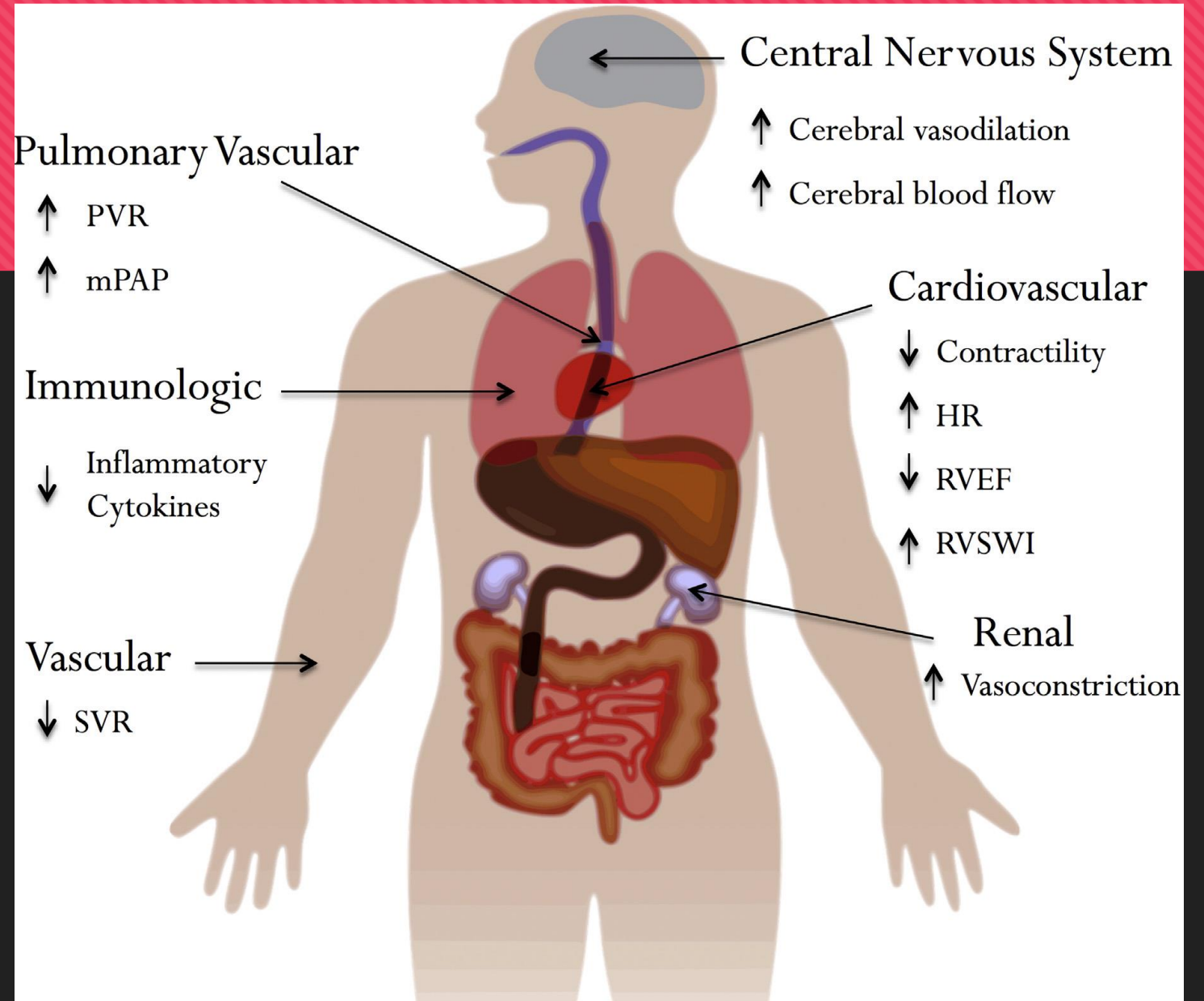
If  $\text{Pplat} < 30$  and breath stacking or dys-synchrony occurs: may increase  $V_T$  in 1ml/kg increments to 7 or 8 ml/kg if Pplat remains  $\leq 30 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$ .

# PERMISSIVE HYPERCAPNIA

- PaCO<sub>2</sub> levels should rise by less than 10 mmHg/h and
- Normally allowed to rise a level of 45 to 65 mmHg.
- Ph levels of 7.25 or more seem to be the most common target
- Buffering agents
  - sodium bicarbonate
  - tromethamine



# Is it harmless?



**It is still unclear whether  
hypercapnic acidosis carries  
survival benefits independent of  
using low tidal volumes**

## Severe hypercapnia and outcome of mechanically ventilated patients with moderate or severe acute respiratory distress syndrome

### Abstract

**Purpose:** To analyze the relationship between hypercapnia developing within the first 48 h after the start of mechanical ventilation and outcome in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

**Patients and methods:** We performed a secondary analysis of three prospective non-interventional cohort studies focusing on ARDS patients from 927 intensive care units (ICUs) in 40 countries. These patients received mechanical ventilation for more than 12 h during 1-month periods in 1998, 2004, and 2010. We used multivariable logistic regression and a propensity score analysis to examine the association between hypercapnia and ICU mortality.

**Main outcomes:** We included 1899 patients with ARDS in this study. The relationship between maximum PaCO<sub>2</sub> in the first 48 h and mortality suggests higher mortality at or above PaCO<sub>2</sub> of  $\geq 50$  mmHg. Patients with severe hypercapnia (PaCO<sub>2</sub>  $\geq 50$  mmHg) had higher complication rates, more organ failures, and worse outcomes. After adjusting for age, SAPS II score, respiratory rate, positive end-expiratory pressure, PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> ratio, driving pressure, pressure/volume limitation strategy (PLS), corrected minute ventilation, and presence of acidosis, severe hypercapnia was associated with increased risk of ICU mortality [odds ratio (OR) 1.93, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.32 to 2.81;  $p = 0.001$ ]. In patients with severe hypercapnia matched for all other variables, ventilation with PLS was associated with higher ICU mortality (OR 1.58, CI 95% 1.04-2.41;  $p = 0.032$ ).

**Conclusions:** Severe hypercapnia appears to be independently associated with higher ICU mortality in patients with ARDS.

The incidence of severe hypercapnia increased significantly with the time (1998, 2004, and 2010) as a consequence of the diverse respiratory strategies practiced over the years, which may reflect the feeling of many intensivists that hypercapnia could be beneficial, however...



# Effects of Hypercapnia and Hypercapnic Acidosis on Hospital Mortality in Mechanically Ventilated Patients

In another retrospective analysis including over 250,000 patients on mechanical ventilation showed that patients who developed hypercapnia (mean PCO<sub>2</sub> 65 mmHg) during the first 24 h of mechanical ventilation had higher hospital mortality than those who had compensated hypercapnia.

## Abstract

**Objectives:** Lung-protective ventilation is used to prevent further lung injury in patients on invasive mechanical ventilation. However, lung-protective ventilation can cause hypercapnia and hypercapnic acidosis. There are no large clinical studies evaluating the effects of hypercapnia and hypercapnic acidosis in patients requiring mechanical ventilation.

**Design:** Multicenter, binational, retrospective study aimed to assess the impact of compensated hypercapnia and hypercapnic acidosis in patients receiving mechanical ventilation.

**Settings:** Data were extracted from the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Centre for Outcome and Resource Evaluation Adult Patient Database over a 14-year period where 171 ICUs contributed deidentified data.

**Patients:** Patients were classified into three groups based on a combination of pH and carbon dioxide levels (normocapnia and normal pH, compensated hypercapnia [normal pH with elevated carbon dioxide], and hypercapnic acidosis) during the first 24 hours of ICU stay. Logistic regression analysis was used to identify the independent association of hypercapnia and hypercapnic acidosis with hospital mortality.

**Interventions:** Nil.

**Measurements and main results:** A total of 252,812 patients (normocapnia and normal pH, 110,104; compensated hypercapnia, 20,463; and hypercapnic acidosis, 122,245) were included in analysis. Patients with compensated hypercapnia and hypercapnic acidosis had higher Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation III scores (49.2 vs 53.2 vs 68.6;  $p < 0.01$ ). The mortality was higher in hypercapnic acidosis patients when compared with other groups, with the lowest mortality in patients with normocapnia and normal pH. After adjusting for severity of illness, the adjusted odds ratio for hospital mortality was higher in hypercapnic acidosis patients (odds ratio, 1.74; 95% CI, 1.62-1.88) and compensated hypercapnia (odds ratio, 1.18; 95% CI, 1.10-1.26) when compared with patients with normocapnia and normal pH ( $p < 0.001$ ). In patients with hypercapnic acidosis, the mortality increased with increasing PCO<sub>2</sub> until 65 mm Hg after which the mortality plateaued.

**Conclusions:** Hypercapnic acidosis during the first 24 hours of intensive care admission is more strongly associated with increased hospital mortality than compensated hypercapnia or normocapnia.

**Table 3** Randomized controlled studies in lung-protective ventilation and PaCO<sub>2</sub> levels

Study	Mortality benefit	PaCO <sub>2</sub> in control arm (mmHg ± SD)	PaCO <sub>2</sub> in LPV arm (mmHg ± SD)	Buffer used
ARDSNet [2]	Yes	35.8 ± 8.0	40.0 ± 10.0	Yes
Amato et al. [66]	Yes	36.0 ± 1.5	58.0 ± 3.0	No
Brochard et al. [46]	No	41.0 ± 7.5	59.5 ± 19.0	No
Brower et al. [67]	No	40.1 ± 1.6	50.3 ± 3.5	Yes
Stewart et al. [68]	No	46.1 ± 10	54.5 ± 15	No

*LPV* lung-protective ventilation

Different studies, different results...

# Extracorporeal CO2 removal

- ECCO2R facilitated ventilation with ultralow tidal volumes near to 3 mL/kg PBW, while preventing hypercapnic acidosis\*
- One currently recruiting randomized clinical trial evaluates whether ultraprotective ventilation by employing ECCO2R affects 90-day mortality in patients with hypoxemic acute respiratory failure\*\*

\*Strategy of UltraProtective Lung Ventilation With Extracorporeal CO2 Removal for New-Onset Moderate to seVere ARDS (SUPERNOVA)

\*\*pRotective vEntilation With Veno-venouS Lung assisT in Respiratory Failure (REST)



# Adverse effects...

- It can be associated to adverse effects such worsening hypoxemia and increased FiO<sub>2</sub> requirements due to a decrease in mean airway pressure, low ventilation-perfusion ratio, and lower partial pressure of alveolar oxygen secondary to a decreased lung respiratory quotient.
- Besides, because of the low flow system of ECCO<sub>2</sub>R, higher anticoagulation requirements are needed in order to maintain ECCO<sub>2</sub>R efficiency and performance. Therefore, significant complications may occur as a consequence of anticoagulation or catheter insertion with hemodynamic instability and a higher number of red blood cell transfusions needed.

# In conclusion

- What the exact impact of high carbon dioxide levels on the outcome of ARDS patients remains uncertain.
- More importantly, whether it should be accepted or whether it should be prevented or treated with invasive techniques for extracorporeal removal remains highly uncertain.



**Thanks for listening....**