


# The Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

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## ARDS: Incidence/Mortality

1.5 - 7.5 cases/100,000 pop./yr  
 (~150,000 cases U.S./ yr.)

~ 50% mortality

~ 75,000 deaths U.S./yr.

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## Criteria for ARDS

**Acute onset**

**Relative hypoxia (PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub> less than 200)**

**Bilateral infiltrates on CXR**

**No signs of LV failure (PCWP less than 18)**

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The JAMA Network

From: **Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: The Berlin Definition**  
 JAMA. 2012;307(23):2526-2533. doi:10.1001/jama.2012.5689

**Table 3.** The Berlin Definition of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	
Timing	Within 1 week of a known clinical insult or new or worsening respiratory symptoms
Chest imaging <sup>a</sup>	Bilateral opacities—not fully explained by effusions, lobar/lung collapse, or nodules
Origin of edema	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
Oxygenation <sup>b</sup>	
Mild	200 mm Hg < PaO <sub>2</sub> /Fio <sub>2</sub> ≤ 300 mm Hg with PEEP or CPAP ≥5 cm H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>c</sup>
Moderate	100 mm Hg < PaO <sub>2</sub> /Fio <sub>2</sub> ≤ 200 mm Hg with PEEP ≥5 cm H <sub>2</sub> O
Severe	PaO <sub>2</sub> /Fio <sub>2</sub> ≤ 100 mm Hg with PEEP ≥5 cm H <sub>2</sub> O

<sup>a</sup>Abbreviations: CPAP, continuous positive airway pressure; Fio<sub>2</sub>, fraction of inspired oxygen; PaO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of arterial oxygen; PEEP, positive end-expiratory pressure.  
<sup>b</sup>Chest radiograph or computed tomography scan.  
<sup>c</sup>If altitude is higher than 1000 m, the correction factor should be calculated as follows: (PaO<sub>2</sub>/Fio<sub>2</sub>) × (barometric pressure/760).  
<sup>d</sup>This may be delivered noninvasively in the mild acute respiratory distress syndrome group.

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### DIRECT LUNG INJURY

#### Common causes

- Pneumonia
- Aspiration of gastric contents

#### Less common causes

- Pulmonary contusion
- Fat emboli
- Near-drowning
- Inhalational injury
- Reperfusion pulmonary edema after lung transplantation or pulmonary embolectomy

### INDIRECT LUNG INJURY

#### Common causes

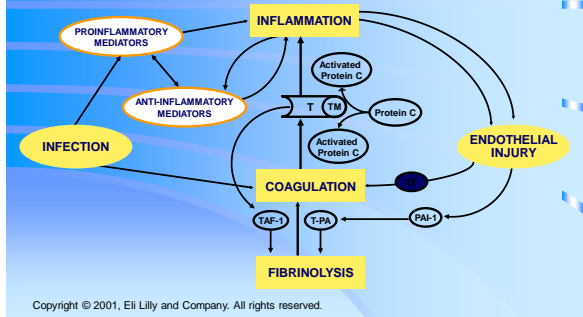
- Sepsis
- Severe trauma with shock and multiple transfusions

#### Less common causes

- Cardiopulmonary bypass
- Drug overdose
- Acute pancreatitis
- Transfusions of blood products

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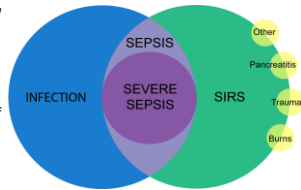
## Sepsis: A Network of Cascading Events



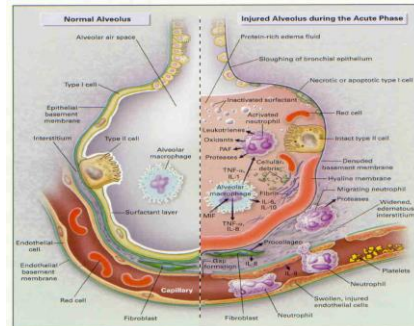
## Sepsis: A Complex Disease

This Venn diagram provides a conceptual framework to view the relationships between various components of sepsis.

The inflammatory changes of sepsis are tightly linked to disturbed hemostasis.



Adapted from: Bone RC et al. *Chest*. 1992;101:1644-55.  
Opal SM et al. *Crit Care Med*. 2000;28:S81-2.



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## ARDS: Treatment

Preventive care

“Supportive care”

Lung protective strategies

- Alternate modes of mechanical ventilation (APRV, HFOV)
- ECMO

Therapeutic paralysis

Prone positioning

Nitric Oxide

Immunomodulation, Anti-oxidants, Surfactant

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## ARDS: Supportive Care

Delivery of care in the ICU

Supplemental oxygen

Mechanical ventilation (PEEP)

Assure adequate sedation

Avoidance of fluid overload

Prevention of complications (i.e. gastrointestinal bleeding, DVT, etc.)

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## Comparison of Two Fluid-Management Strategies in Acute Lung Injury (FACTT Trial)

Conservative vs liberal fluid strategy of fluid management in ARDS

Fluid balance over 7 days -136 mLs in conservative group and + 7.0 L in liberal group

Conservative group had increased oxygenation index, 2 day shorter length of ventilation and time in ICU. No difference in mortality

- N Engl J Med 2006 354:24:2564-2575

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## Mechanical Ventilation: Goals in ARDS

Assure adequate oxygen delivery

Avoid toxicity (barotrauma/oxygen)

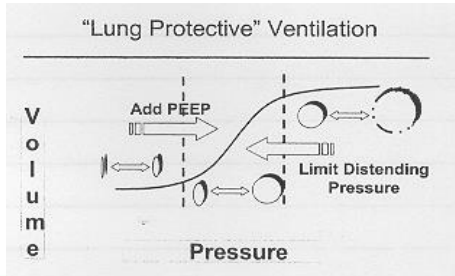
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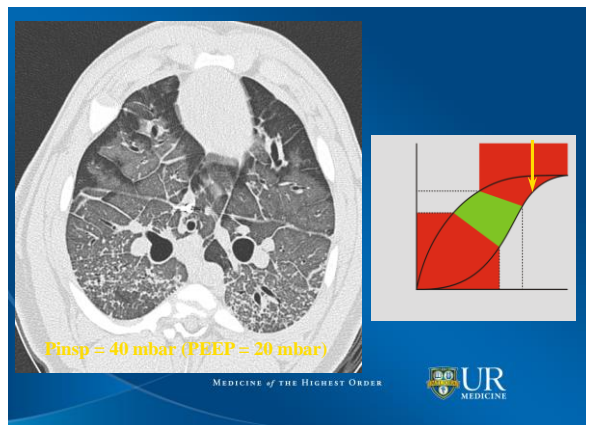
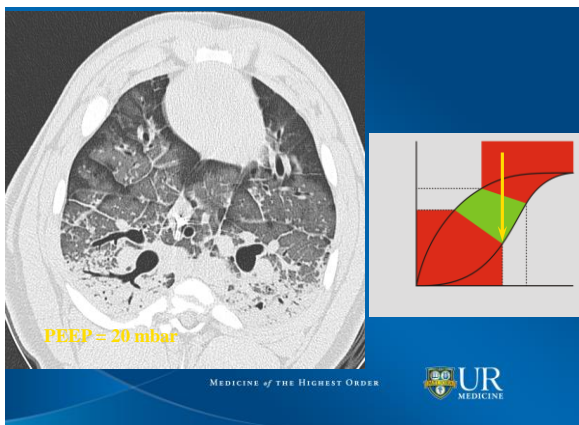
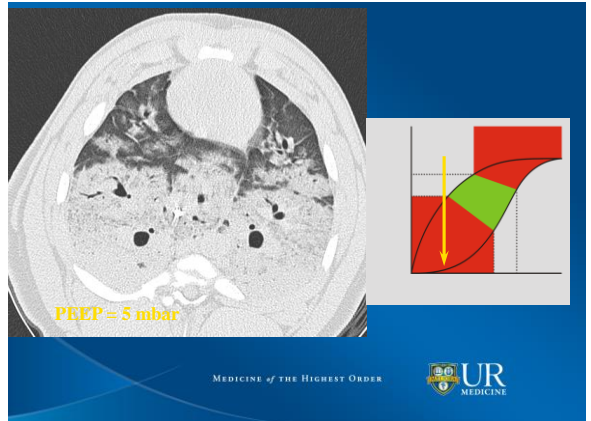
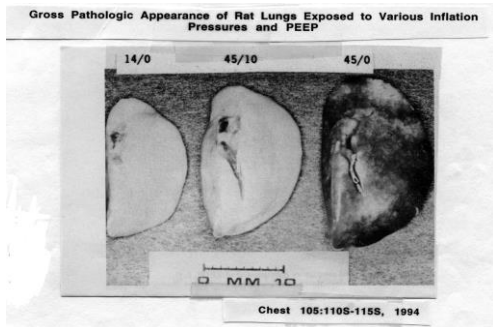
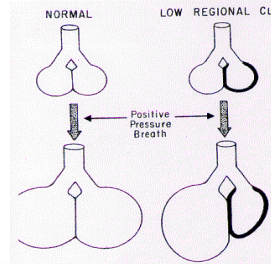
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**Preventing overdistention and under-recruitment injury**

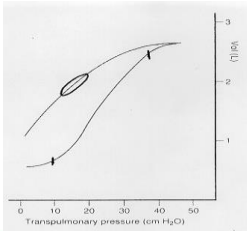


**Overdistention may be regional  
Even a "normal" VT can create regional overdistention**



**Overdistention/ underrecruitment**

PV curve:



Physical lung damage from both:

- overstretch (nl <35)
- collapse/open

Systemic cytokine release - other organ system injuries



**Oxygen Toxicity**

Time and dose dependent

Mediated by oxygen radicals

Inflammation, hyalinization, edema

Keep FiO2 ≤ 60%



**Permissive Hypercapnia**

Deliberate attempt to limit ventilator induced lung injury

Limits tidal volume (alveolar ventilation)

Results in elevated PaCO<sub>2</sub>

Has been utilized in ARDS and status asthmaticus

Well tolerated if occurs slowly



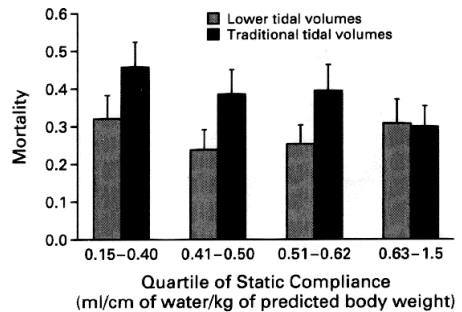
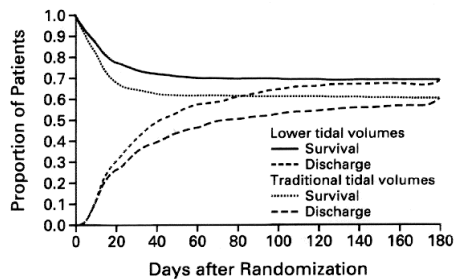
**The NIH ARDS Network**

Prospective, randomized study comparing traditional (12 ml/kg) vs low (6 ml/kg) tidal volumes in ARDS

Stopped after enrollment of 861 patients

Mortality 40% in traditional TV group vs 31% in the low TV group

• NEJM 342:1301-8, 2000.



## Current Guidelines for Ventilatory Support in ARDS

- Based on concept of lungs being “small” rather than “stiff”
- Limit transalveolar pressure to 30 cm H<sub>2</sub>O (TV 5-8 ml/kg)
- PEEP 7 - 20 cm H<sub>2</sub>O
- Limit FiO<sub>2</sub> to lowest tolerable



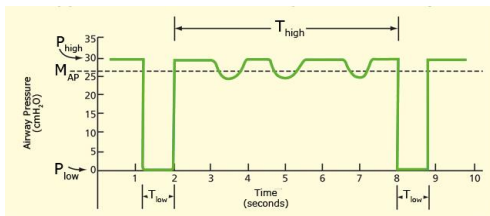
## Oxygenation Index (OI)

$$OI = FiO_2 \times MAP$$

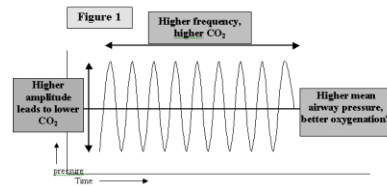
(All modes of ventilation are variations of how airway pressure is applied)



## Airway Pressure Release Ventilation

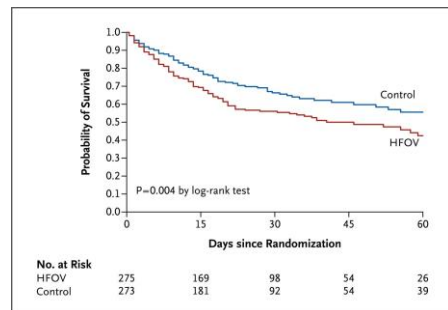


## High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation



## High Frequency Oscillation in Early Acute Respiratory Failure

- Randomized trial in 39 ICUs
- HFOV vs LTVV in early moderate to severe ARDS (less than 72 hours)
- Trial stopped early after 548 patients
- In hospital mortality 47% in HFOV vs 35% in LTVV (p = 0.005)
- In adults with moderate to severe ARDS early application of HFOV may increase in hospital mortality
  - Ferguson et al, N Engl J Med 368:795-805, 2013



### Neuromuscular Blockers in Early Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

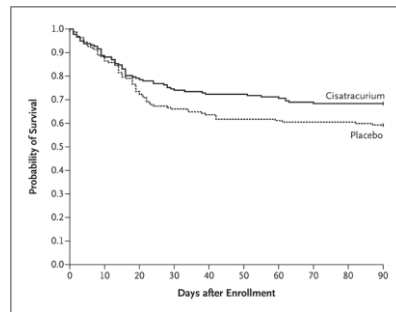
340 ICU patients with severe ARDS  $\leq 48$  hours, received 48 hours of study drug ( $P/F \leq 150$ )

Cis-atracurium vs placebo

Adjusted 90 day mortality 32% in cis-atracurium group, 41% in placebo group

?Class effect or related to cis-atracurium

• Papazian et al, N Engl J Med 363:1107-1116, 2010



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### Prone Positioning in ARDS

Improves oxygenation by improving V/Q matching to dorsal lung units

Improves drainage of dorsal lung units

Increases FRC

Not without risks

Recent study suggests reduced mortality in severe ARDS

### Prone Positioning in Severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

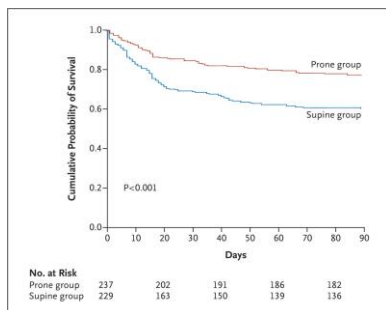
466 patients with severe ARDS ( $P/F$  less than 150) for less than 36 hours

Prone positioning for 16 hours vs supine

28 day mortality 16% prone vs 33% supine ( $p < 0.001$ )

90 day mortality 24% prone vs 42% supine ( $p < 0.001$ )

• Guerin et al, New Engl J Med 2013



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### ARDS: Salvage Therapy

Nitric oxide (Flolan)

ECMO

APRV

HFOV



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## Nitric Oxide (INO) In ARDS

NO is the endothelium-derived relaxing factor (EDRF)

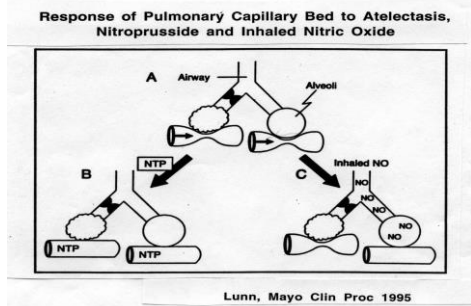
Vasodilator

Improves V/Q matching

Administered by inhalation

Avoid the systemic effects of other vasodilators

Very short half-life



## Effects of Inhaled Nitric Oxide in Patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: Results of a Randomized Phase II Trial

Prospective, multicenter, placebo-controlled study

ARDS patients enrolled within 72 hrs of onset of the disease

Randomized to placebo, 1.25, 5, 20, 40 or 80 ppm INO

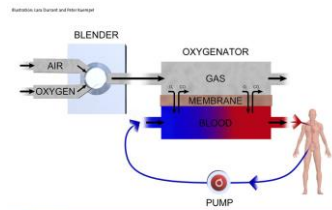
No difference in mortality

Trends toward benefit of INO 5PPM group

• CCM 26:15-23, 1998



## Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)



**How ECMO Works:**  
 The oxygenator is essentially ECMO. The O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> pumps draw venous blood from the patient, this blood is pumped into the oxygenator and flows along one side of the membrane. The other side of the membrane is pumped with oxygen. The oxygenated blood is pumped back into the patient. The amount of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the blood is determined by the flow rate of the oxygenator and the surface area of the membrane. The amount of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the blood is determined by the flow rate of the oxygenator and the surface area of the membrane.



## Efficacy and Economic Assessment of Conventional Ventilatory Support Versus Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for Severe Adult respiratory Failure (CESAR): A Multicenter Randomised Trial

180 adults with ARDS randomized to continued ventilator mgt or referral to ECMO center with severe respiratory failure (75% of received ECMO)

63% of transferred patients vs 47% conventionally treated patients survived 60 days without severe disability

Unclear if effect due to larger center or ECMO itself

• Peek et al, Lancet 374:1351-1363, 2009

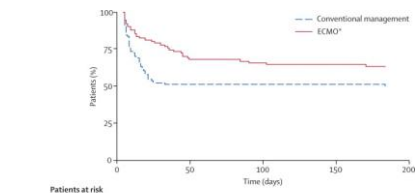


Figure 2 Kaplan-Meier survival estimates ECMO=extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. \*Patients were randomly allocated to consideration for treatment by ECMO, but did not necessarily receive this treatment.

Giles J Peek, Miranda Magford, Ravindranath Thirupai, Andrew Wilson, Elizabeth Allen, Maramma M Thalanany...  
 Efficacy and economic assessment of conventional ventilatory support versus extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for severe adult respiratory failure (CESAR): a multicentre randomised controlled trial

The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9698, 2009, 1351 - 1363  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(09\)61069-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(09)61069-2)





## ARDS: Limiting the Immune Response

Methylprednisolone ineffective in preventing or treating acute phase of ARDS

Anecdotal reports of success with steroids in the fibroproliferative phase of ARDS

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## ARDS: Limiting the Immune Response

Plethora of immunomodulators have been studied (Anti-TNF abs, IL-1 ra, and IL-8 abs, anti CD18 abs, ibuprofen, ketoconazole etc.)

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## ARDS: Prognosis

Due to the heterogeneity of the disease, exact mortality rates are unknown

~ 40-50% mortality rate generally quoted

Risk factors include increased age, sepsis, multiple organ dysfunction, acidosis

Majority of deaths due to multiple organ failure or sepsis not to respiratory failure

Lung function generally recovers completely although some develop fibrotic residua

Survivors have functional disability, weakness and muscle wasting 1 year after discharge

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## ARDS: Conclusions

**ARDS is a heterogenous disease with both direct and indirect causes**

**ARDS and SIRS are closely linked**

**Lung protective strategies based on the concept of the lung being "small" rather than "stiff"**

**Limiting fluids in hemodynamically stable patients may be advantageous**

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## ARDS: Conclusions

**Prone positioning and therapeutic paralysis may improve outcomes in severe cases**

**Which salvage modes/therapies to use remains up for debate**

**New focus on long term outcomes as well (role of early mobility?)**

**Probably no "magic bullet"**

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