

# High flow nasal cannula vs NIV Current evidence in ICU

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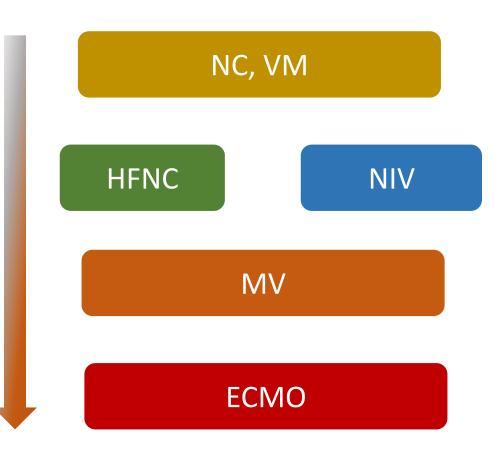
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### A typical scenario of oxygen therapy

- A case of pneumonia with desaturation
- Marked respiratory distress require noninvasive ventilator support
- Respiratory failure requires intubation and mechanical ventilator support
- Disease recovery with weaning and extubation
- Refractory desaturation that need VV-ECMO



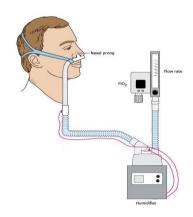
### 高流量鼻導管健保給付規定(2021/12生效)

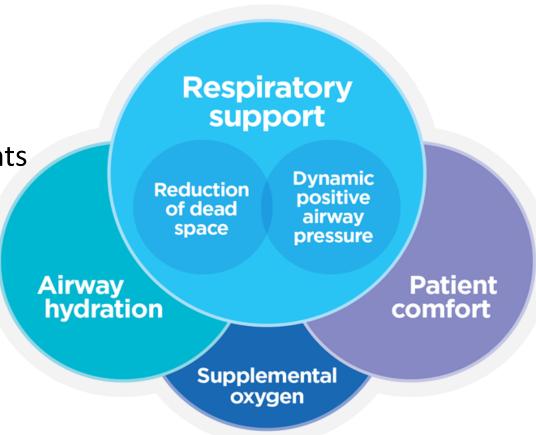
#### 適應症

- 1.急性缺氧性呼吸衰竭(符合下列3項):
- (1) 當以 10L/min 或更高的流速供應氧氣至少 15 分鐘,P/F ratio≤300 時
- (2) RR>25/min,呼吸困難或呼吸窘迫
- (3)  $PaCO2 \le 45 \text{ mmHg}$
- 2.呼吸衰竭拔管後,預防再次插管使用。
- (1)插管大於 24 小時的病人,且有高危險因子\*
- (\*註:年紀大於 65 歲、APACHE II>12、BMI>30、呼吸道清除功能失效、困難脫離呼吸器病人、插管大於 7 天病人)
- (2)經臨床負責醫師判定有再度呼吸衰竭可能
- (3)若臨床上認為拔管後應使用非侵襲性陽壓呼吸治療的病人,則不建議使用本項

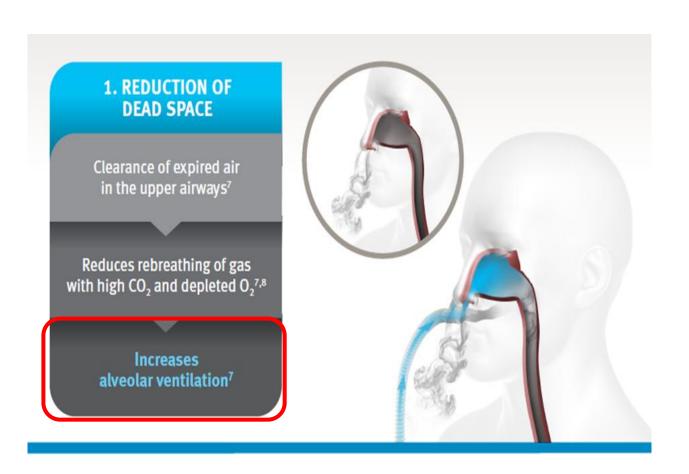
### High Flow Nasal Oxygen Therapy

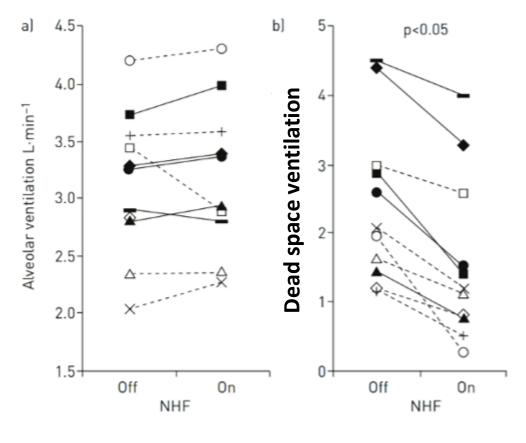
- "High-flow" "Oxygen" through "Nasal cannula"
  - High flow oxygen therapy: HFOT
  - High flow rate: ≥ inspiratory flow of the patients
  - Constant high FiO2 supply (up to 100%)
  - Better tolerance through nasal prone





### Nasopharynx Dead Space Washout



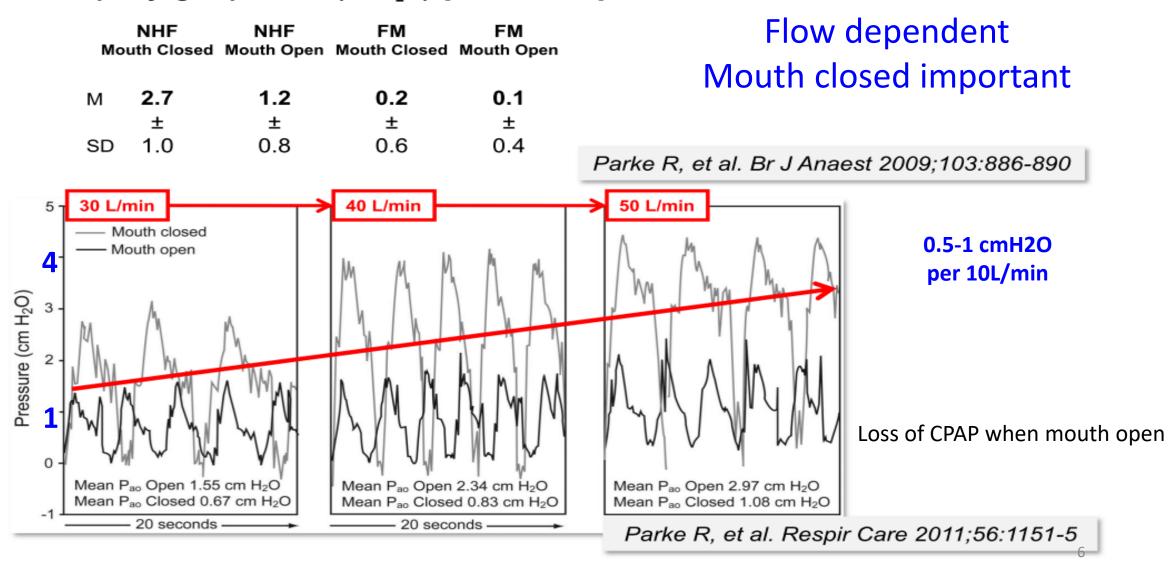


**30%** of regular ventilation (anatomical dead space)

 $\cdots \cdots \mathsf{Controls} \ (\bigcirc, \square, \diamondsuit, \triangle, +, \times); \ ---- \ \mathsf{COPD} \ \mathsf{patients} \ [\bullet, \blacksquare, \blacklozenge, \blacktriangle, --]$ 

#### Small CPAP effect

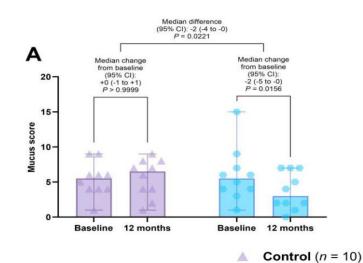
Nasopharyngeal pressure (cmH<sub>2</sub>O) [Flow 35 L/min]

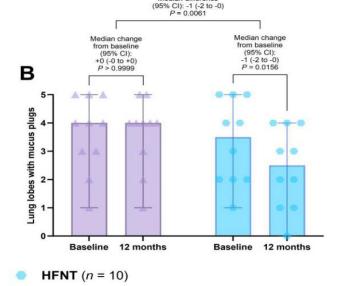


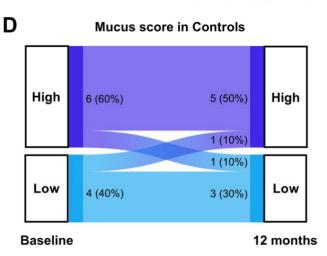
### **Airway Humidity Matters**

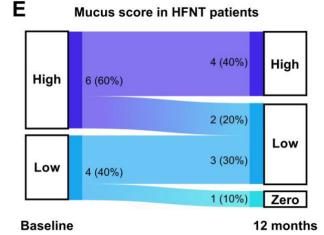


	TEMPERATURE	ABSOLUTE HUMIDITY**
MEDICAL GAS	15 °C	0.3 mg/L
ROOM	22 °C	7 mg/L
COLD BUBBLER	Ambient	16 mg/L <sup>1</sup>
PASSIVE HUMIDIFIER (HME)	25-30 °C	17-32 mg/L <sup>2</sup>
HEATED HUMIDIFIER	37 °C	44 mg/L







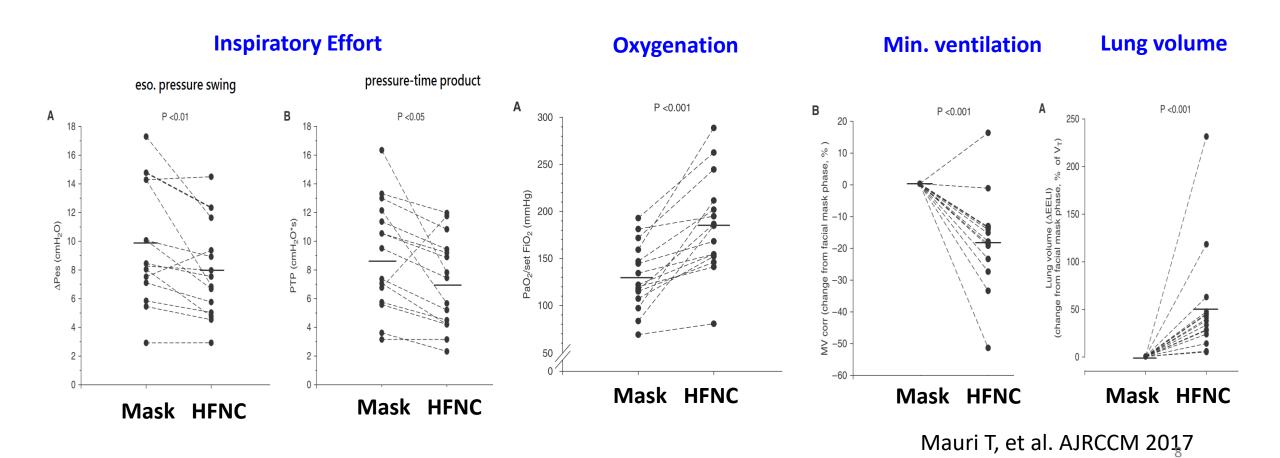


Crimi C, et al. ERJ Open Res 2024

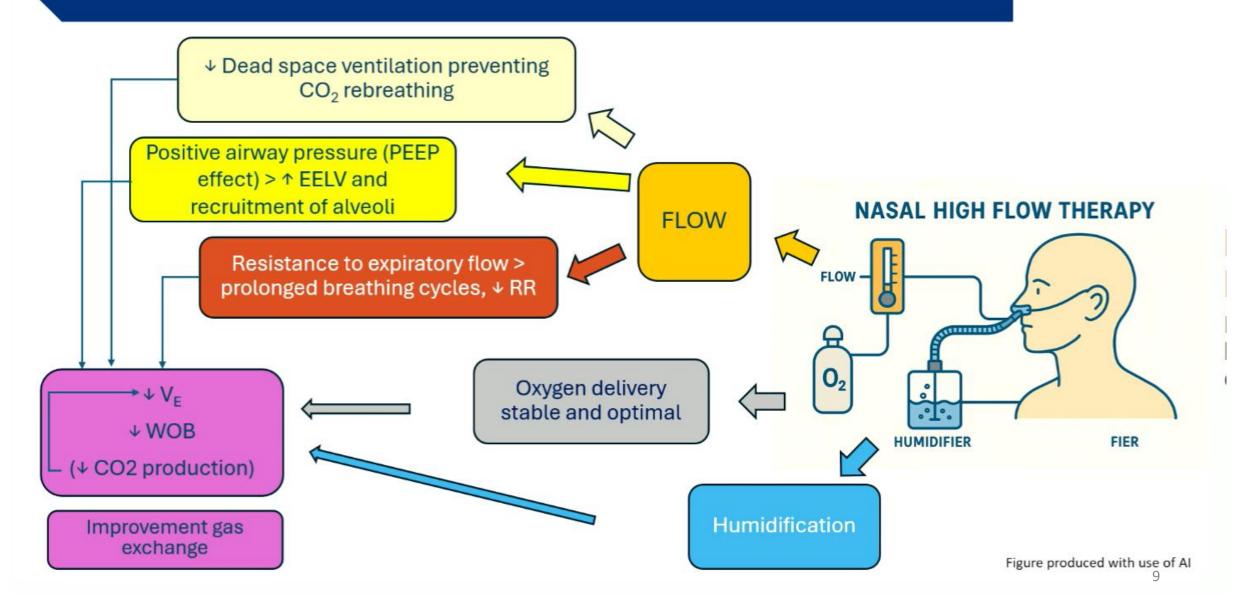
# Physiologic Effects of High-Flow Nasal Cannula in Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

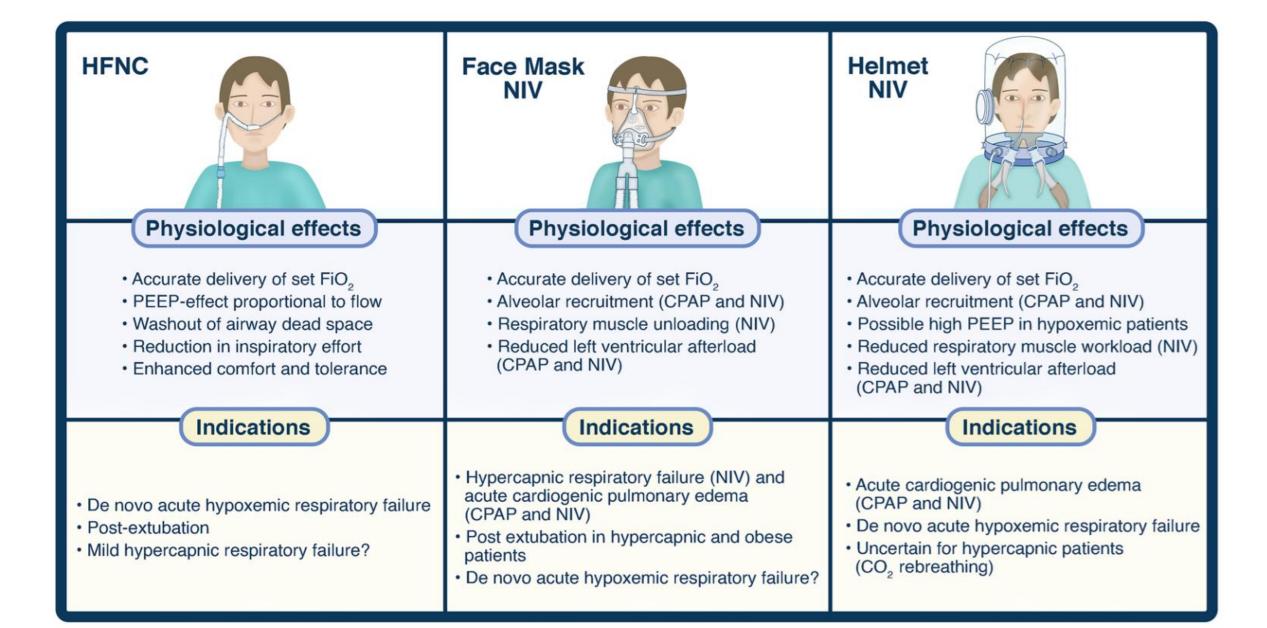
15 patients with AHRF (PF ratio <300) in Italy

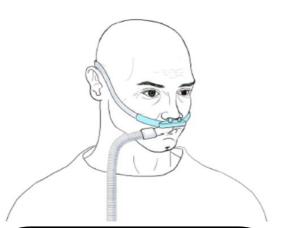
HFNC 40L/min vs. facial mask in the same FiO2



#### A summary of physiology

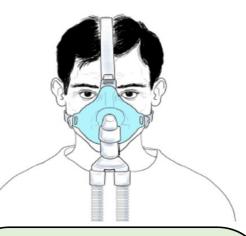






#### **Benefits**

- Matches inspiratory flow
- Delivers set F<sub>i</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- Delivers fully conditioned gas
- Enhances comfort
- Provides positive airway pressure (up to 4 cmH<sub>2</sub>O)
- Washout of nasopharyngeal dead space
- Reduces inspiratory effort



#### **Benefits**

- Delivers set FiO<sub>2</sub>
- Delivers fully conditioned gas
- Provides PEEP to allow alveolar recruitment
- Provides PS (only for PSV) to unload inspiratory muscles
- Allows to monitor tidal volume (only PSV)

#### Benefits

- Delivers set FiO<sub>2</sub>
- Provides high PEEP to allow alveolar recruitment and enhance ventilator homogeneity
- Continuous treatments with good tolerability
- Provides PS (only for PSV) to reduce inspiratory effort
- Asynchronous PS may prevent positive P<sub>1</sub> swings

#### **Pitfalls**

Small amount of PEEP delivered

#### **Pitfalls**

- Skin ulcer
- Air leaks, difficult delivery of high PEEP
- Full inspiratory synchronization may increase P<sub>L</sub> swings and tidal volume
- Poor tolerability: need for treatment interruptions

#### **Pitfalls**

- Impossibility to measure tidal volume
- Upper limbs edema, with possible vasal thrombosis

Grieco DL, et al. ICM 2021

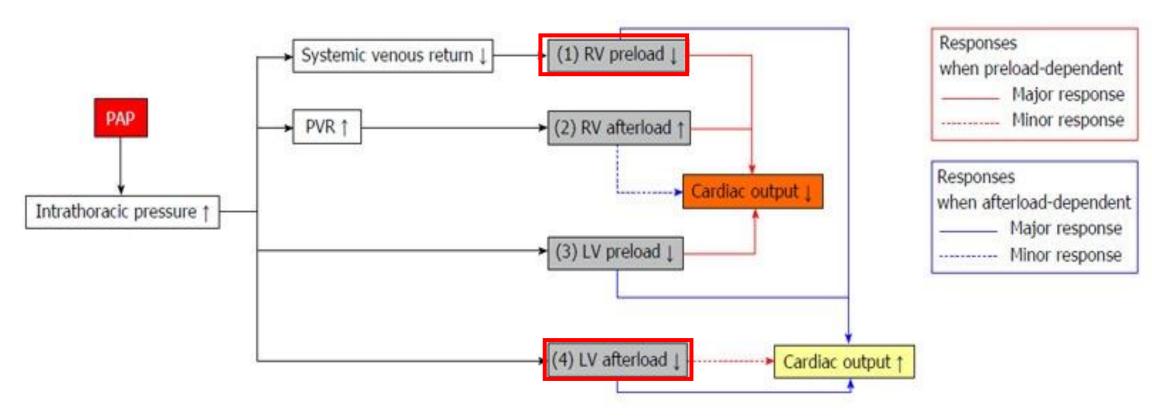
## Official ERS/ATS clinical practice guidelines: noninvasive ventilation for acute respiratory failure

TABLE 2 Recommendations for actionable PICO questions

_	Clinical indication#	Certainty of evidence¶	Recommendation
	Prevention of hypercapnia in COPD exacerbation	$\oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation against
	Hypercapnia with COPD exacerbation	$\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus$	Strong recommendation for
	Cardiogenic pulmonary oedema	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Strong recommendation for
	Acute asthma exacerbation		No recommendation made
	Immunocompromised	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for
$\bigstar$	De novo respiratory failure		No recommendation made
	Post-operative patients	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for
	Palliative care	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for
	Trauma	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for
	Pandemic viral illness		No recommendation made
	Post-extubation in high-risk patients (prophylaxis)	$\oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for
	Post-extubation respiratory failure	$\oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation against
	Weaning in hypercapnic patients	$\oplus \oplus \oplus$	Conditional recommendation for

certainty of effect estimates:  $\oplus \oplus \oplus \oplus$ , high;  $\oplus \oplus \oplus$ , moderate;  $\oplus \oplus$ , low;  $\oplus$ , very low.

#### **Effects of Positive Airway Pressure on Hemodynamics**



#### 2021 ESC Heart Failure Guideline



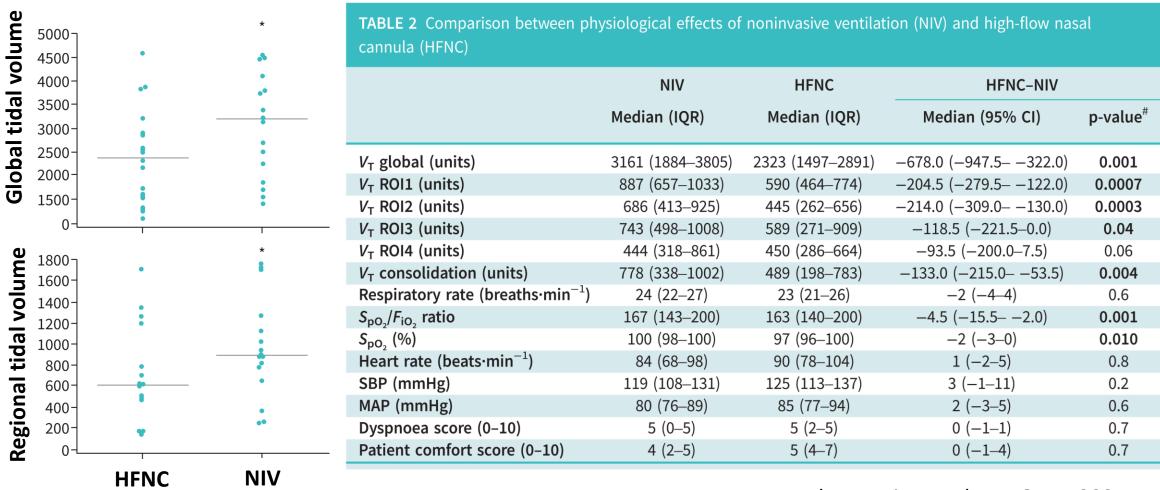
Kato et al. World journal of cardiology 2014

- Blood pressure should be monitored regularly during non-invasive positive pressure ventilation.
- The increase in pulmonary vascular resistance and RV afterload may also be detrimental in RV dysfunction.

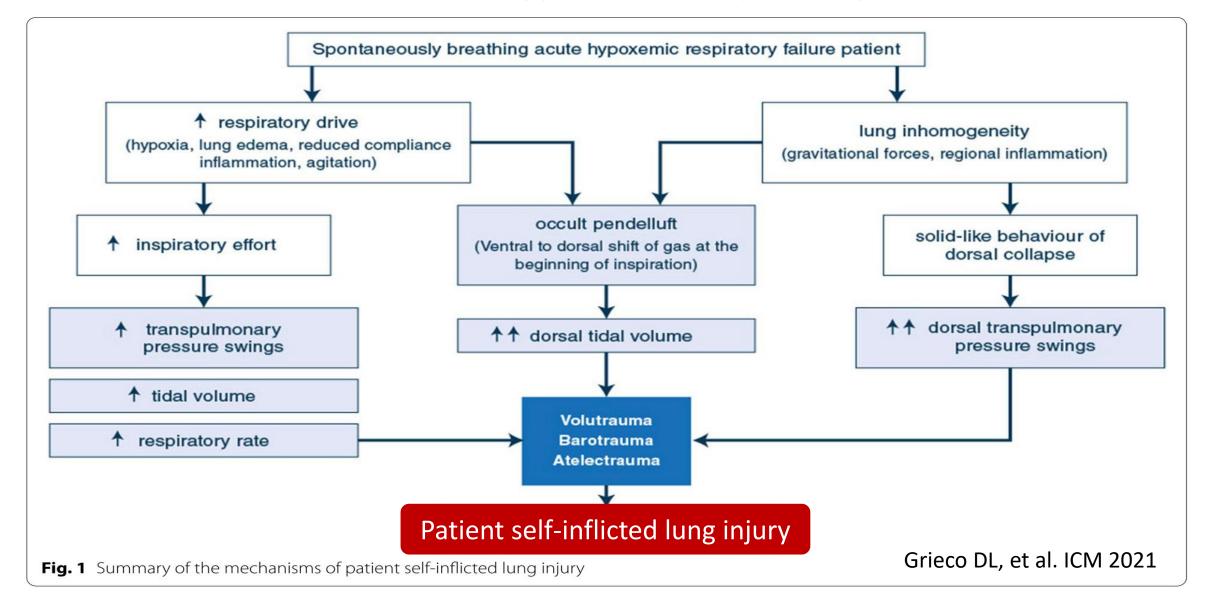
## HFOT versus NIV: a randomised physiological crossover study of alveolar recruitment in acute respiratory failure

16 cases with de novo hypo resp failure

HFNC vs. NIV, cross-over study



## Non-invasive ventilatory support and high-flow nasal oxygen as first-line treatment of acute hypoxemic respiratory failure and ARDS



Feature	HFNC	Facemask NIV	Helmet NIV
PEEP effect	2–4 cm H₂O (low)	5–8 cm H₂O (moderate)	10–12 cm H <sub>2</sub> O (high)
Inspiratory support pressure	None	PS 8–14 cm H <sub>2</sub> O	PS 10−12 cm H <sub>2</sub> O (partly damped by helmet compliance)
Transpulmonary pressure swings	Small	Large – marked ΔPL and high VT	Moderate – attenuated by pressure buffering
Tidal-volume control	Spontaneous, relatively low	Often > 9 mL/kg PBW → high risk	Hard to measure but ΔPES decreases
			★★ Moderate-to-low
Overall P-SILI risk	★ Low	★★★ High	(depends on settings and synchrony)

## ERS Clinical Practice Guidelines: high-flow nasal cannula in acute respiratory failure

Acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure

#### **TABLE 2** Population, intervention, comparison, outcomes (PICO) questions and recommendations

1. Should HFNC or COT be used in	patients with acute The ERS task f
hypoxaemic respiratory failure?	hypoxaemic

- 2. Should HFNC or NIV be used in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure?
- 3. Should HFNC or COT be used during breaks from NIV in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure?
- 4. Should HFNC or COT be used in post-operative patients after extubation?
- 5. Should HFNC or NIV be used in post-operative patients after extubation?

The ERS task force suggests the use of HFNC over COT in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence)

The ERS task force suggests the use of HFNC over NIV in acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence)

The ERS task force suggests the use of HFNC over COT during breaks from NIV in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence)

The ERS task force suggests the use of either COT or HFNC in post-operative patients at low risk of respiratory complications (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence)

The ERS task force suggests the use of either HFNC or NIV in post-operative patients at high risk of respiratory complications (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evide Oczkowski S, et al. Eur Respir J . 2022.

# ERS Clinical Practice Guidelines: high-flow nasal cannula in acute respiratory failure

### PICO question: Should HFNC or NIV be used in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure?

- We suggest the use of HFNC over NIV in patients with acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence)
- Subset of patients that NIV maybe preferable:
  - Increased work of breathing
  - Respiratory muscle fatigue
  - Congestive heart failure
  - The positive pressure of NIV may positively impact haemodynamics.

### High-Flow Oxygen through Nasal Cannula in Acute



### Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

**FLORALI** study

310 ARDS p's with PF ratio<300; HFNC vs. BiPAP vs facial mask O<sub>2</sub>

Frat JP, et al. NEJM 2015

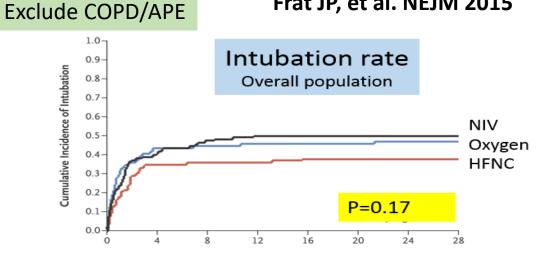
$1^{3t}$	enapoint:	28 days	intubation rate	

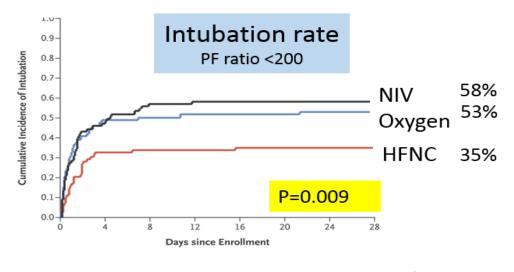
Table 1. Characteristics of the Patients at Baseline, According to Study Group.*							
Characteristic	Standard Oxygen (N=94)	Noninvasive Ventilation (N=110)					
Arterial blood gas							
рН	7.43±0.05	7.44±0.06	7.43±0.06				
Pao, — mm Hg	85±31	92±32	90±36				
FIO₂ §	0.62±0.19	0.63±0.17	0.65±0.15				
Pao <sub>2</sub> :F10 <sub>2</sub> — mm Hg	157±89	161±73	149±72				
Paco <sub>2</sub> — mm Hg	36±6	35±5	34±6				





85%: pneumonia related





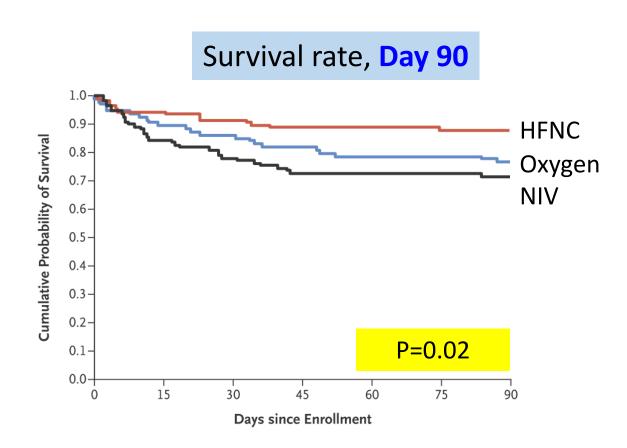
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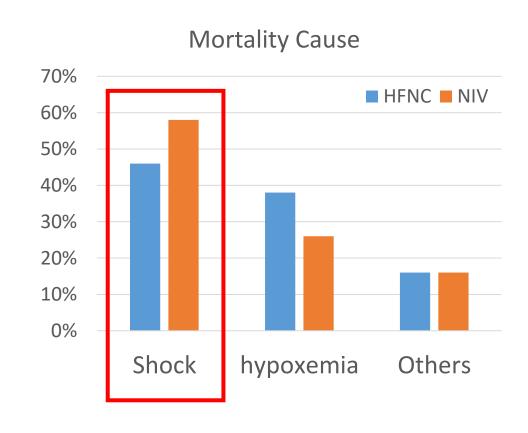


**FLORALI** study

310 ARDS p's with PF ratio<300; HFNC vs. BiPAP

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: 28 days intubation rate



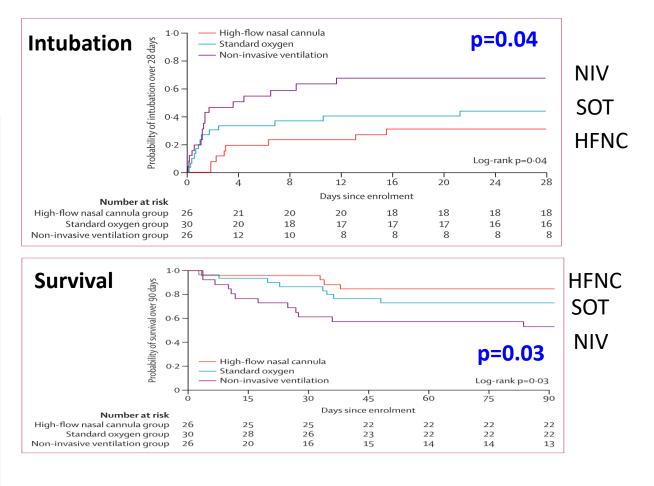


### Effect of non-invasive oxygenation strategies in immunecompromised patients with severe acute respiratory failure: a posthoc analysis of a randomised trial

Post-hoc analysis of FLORALI study

**82** immunocompromised cases: cancer, HIV, immunosuupresant

	Standard oxygen (n=30)	High-flow nasal cannula (n=26)	Non-invasive ventilation plus high-flow cannula (n=26)	p value
Outcomes				
Intubation	13 (43%)	8 (31%)	17 (65%)	0.04
Ventilator-free days at day 28	23 (10)	26 (6)	14 (13)	<0.0001
Intensive care unit mortality	6 (20%)	4 (15%)	11 (42%)	0.06
90-day mortality	8 (27%)	4 (15%)	12 (46%)	0.046



Frat JP, et al. Lancet Resp Med 2016

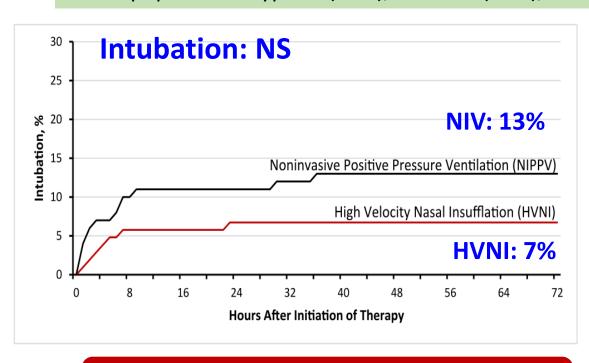
## High-Velocity Nasal Insufflation in the Treatment of Respiratory Failure: A Randomized Clinical Trial

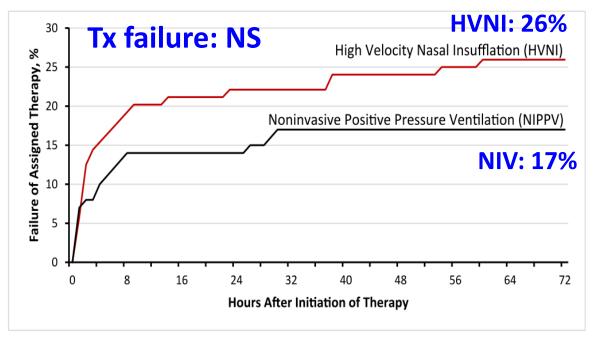
204 patients with RF in ED

HVNI (35L/min, 100%) vs. NIV (I/E: 10/5)

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: therapy failure at 72 h

Mixed population: hypoxic (13%), COPDAE (28%), CHF (21%)





HFNC is non-inferior to NIV

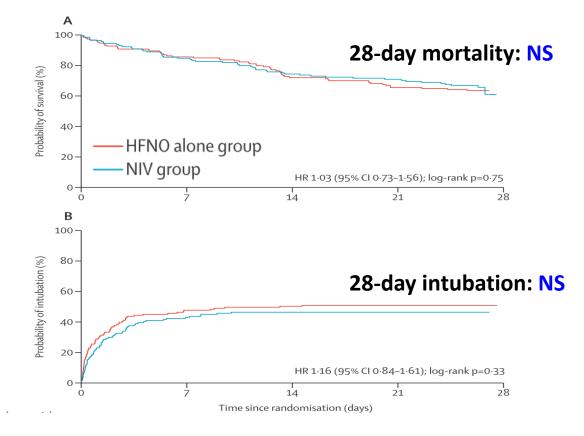
## HFNC alone or alternating with NIV in critically ill immunocompromised patients with acute respiratory failure: a randomised controlled trial

Open label RCT in ICUs of France/Italy

Immune compromise with hypoxemic RF

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: 28-Day mortality

	HFNO alone group (n=154)	NIV group (n=145)
Age, years	62 (13)	65 (12)
Underlying conditions		
Haematological malignancy	78 (51%)	73 (50%)
Solid cancer	35 (23%)	38 (26%)
AIDS	7 (5%)	5 (3%)
Solid organ transplant recipient	20 (13%)	15 (10%)
Other	14 (9%)	14 (10%)
Corticosteroids or immunosuppressive therapy	95 (62%)	95 (66%)
Leucopenia or neutropenia	26 (17%)	18 (12%)
Allogeneic stem cell transplant recipient	11 (7%)	12 (8%)
Autologous stem cell transplant recipient	14 (9%)	4 (3%)
Haematological malignancy or leucopenia or neutropenia (strata)	81 (53%)	75 (52%)



Coudroy R, et al. Lancet Res Med 2022

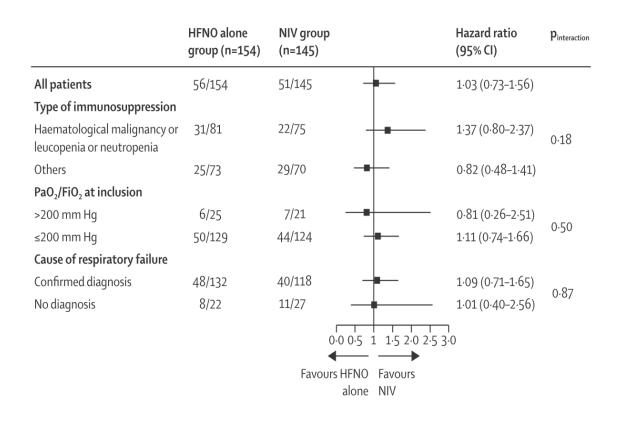
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Open label RCT in ICUs of France/Italy

Immune compromise with hypoxemic RF

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: 28-Day mortality

	HFNO alone group (n=154)	NIV group (n=145)	p value
Primary outcome			
Mortality at day 28	56 (36%)	51 (35%)	0.83
Secondary outcomes			
Intubation at day 28	78 (51%)	67 (46%)	0.44
Mortality of intubated patients in the ICU	40/78 (51%)	43/67 (64%)	-
Mortality			
In the ICU	45 (29%)	49 (34%)	0.39
In hospital	63 (41%)	60 (41%)	0.93
At day 90	67 (44%)	63 (43%)	0.99
Respiratory parameters 1 h after	treatment initiation		
PaO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> , mm Hg	143 (76)	199 (91)	<0.001
Respiratory rate, breaths per min	27 (7)	29 (8)	0.059
Change in discomfort scale, mm	-4 (-18 to 4)	0 (-16 to 17)	0.040
Time to intubation, h [n]	20 (5 to 58) [78]	29 (9 to 72) [67]	0.24



## High-Flow Nasal Oxygen vs Noninvasive Ventilation in Patients With Acute Respiratory Failure: The RENOVATE Randomized Clinical Trial

Multicenter RCT in Brazil, non-inferior design

HFNC (n=883) vs. NIV (n=883) in acute respiratory failure

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: intubation/death at day 7

Non-inferior margin: 10% → OR 1.55

Table 2. Adherence t	Patient With acute respiratory failure					3		4		<b>(</b>
		immunocompromised Immunocompromised		COPD exacerbation with respiratory acidosis N=77 Acute cardio		Acute cardiogen	N=272 cute cardiogenic pulmonary edema Hypoxemic COVID-19		-19 N=882	
	High-flow nasal oxygen (n = 249) <sup>a</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation (n = 236) <sup>b</sup>	High-flow nasal oxygen (n = 28) <sup>a</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation (n = 22) <sup>b</sup>	High-flow nasal oxygen (n = 35) <sup>a</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation (n = 42) <sup>b</sup>	High-flow nasal oxygen (n = 136) <sup>a</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation (n = 136) <sup>b</sup>	High-flow nasal oxygen (n = 435) <sup>a</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation (n = 447) <sup>b</sup>
Trial respiratory supp	ort during first 3 d									
Received assigned therapy, No. (%)	223 (89.6)	205 (86.9)	26 (92.9)	20 (90.9)	30 (85.7)	37 (88.1)	130 (95.6)	131 (96.3)	415 (95.4)	415 (92.8)
Time receiving therapy, median (IQR), d	2 (1-3)	1 (1-3)	3 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	1 (1-3)	1.5 (1-3)	1 (1-2)	1 (1-2)	3 (1-3)	2 (1-3)
Crossed over to another therapy, No. (%) <sup>c</sup>	23 (9.2)	5 (2.1)	1 (3.6)	0	8 (22.9)	0	7 (5.1)	0	39 (9.0)	34 (7.6)

JAMA 2025; 330 (10):875

Using days: 1-3 days

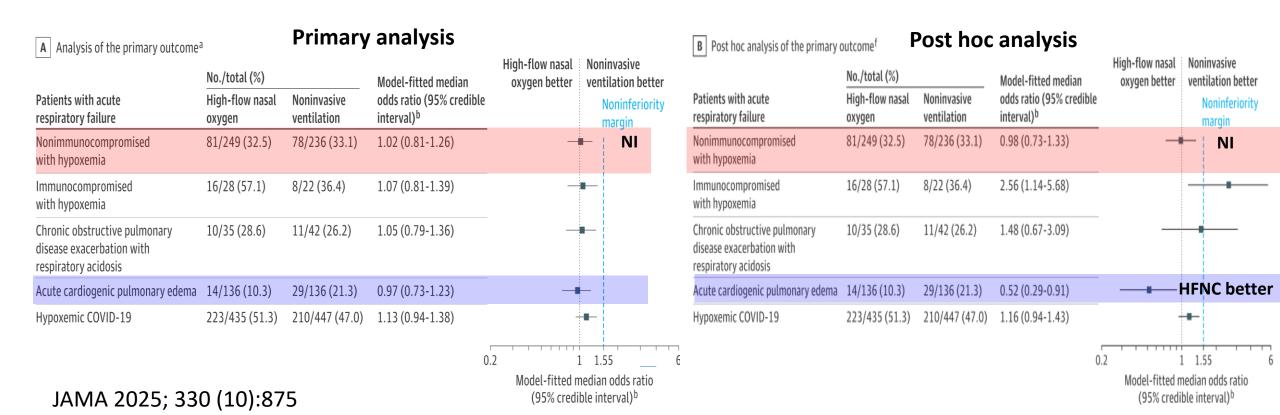
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Multicenter RCT in Brazil, non-inferior design

HFNC (n=883) vs. NIV (n=883) in acute respiratory failure

26

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: intubation/death at day 7

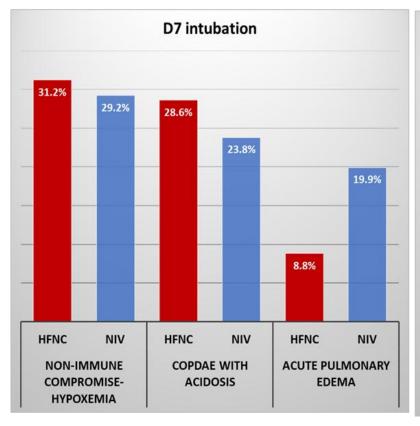


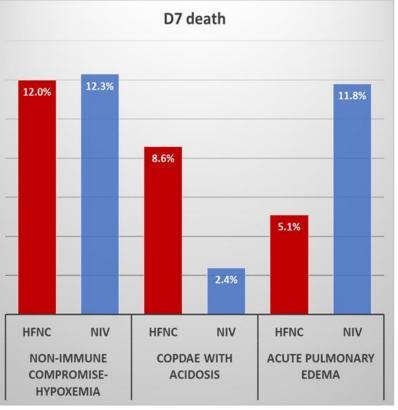
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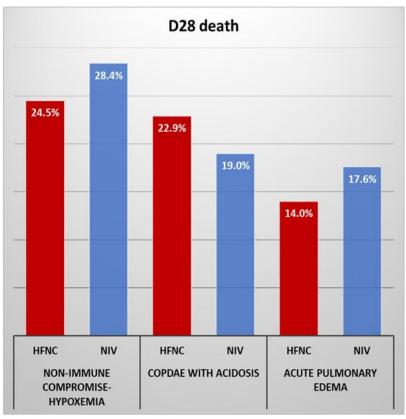
Multicenter RCT in Brazil, non-inferior design

HFNC (n=883) vs. NIV (n=883) in acute respiratory failure

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: intubation/death at day 7







### Is High-Flow Oxygen the Standard for All Patients With Acute Respiratory Failure?

Jean-Pierre Frat, MD, PhD; Sylvain Le Pape, MD, PhD; Arnaud W. Thille, MD, PhD

- HFNC is non-inferior to NIV in preventing intubation or death across most causes of acute respiratory failure
- HFNC can be considered a safe initial "bridge" therapy while clinicians identify the underlying etiology of respiratory failure
- Individualized treatment decisions rather than a one-size-fits-all approach in respiratory support for acute respiratory failure

Reevaluating Respiratory Support in Acute Respiratory Failure— Insights From the RENOVATE Trial and Implications for Practice

Yonathan Freund, MD, PhD; Amelie Vromant, MD

- Due to heterogeneity, small subgroup sizes, and a wide noninferiority margin, the results should be viewed as hypothesis-generating rather than practice-changing
- The broad noninferiority margin and lack of improvement in secondary or patientcentered outcomes limit the clinical certainty and clinical application
- Patient-centered and patient-reported outcomes are needed in future studies to determine whether HFNC offers true benefits

### HFNC in post-extubation patients

# ERS Clinical Practice Guidelines: high-flow nasal cannula in acute respiratory failure

#### post-extubation patients

#### **TABLE 2** Population, intervention, comparison, outcomes (PICO) questions and recommendations

- 6. Should HFNC or COT be used in nonsurgical patients after extubation?
- 7. Should HFNC or NIV be used in nonsurgical patients after extubation?
- 8. Should HFNC or NIV be used in patients with acute hypercapnic respiratory failure?

- The ERS task force suggests the use of HFNC over COT in nonsurgical patients after extubation (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence)
- The ERS task force suggests the use of NIV over HFNC for patients at high risk of extubation failure, unless there are absolute or relative contraindications to NIV (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence)
- The ERS task force suggests a trial of NIV prior to use of HFNC in patients with COPD and acute hypercapnic respiratory failure (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence)

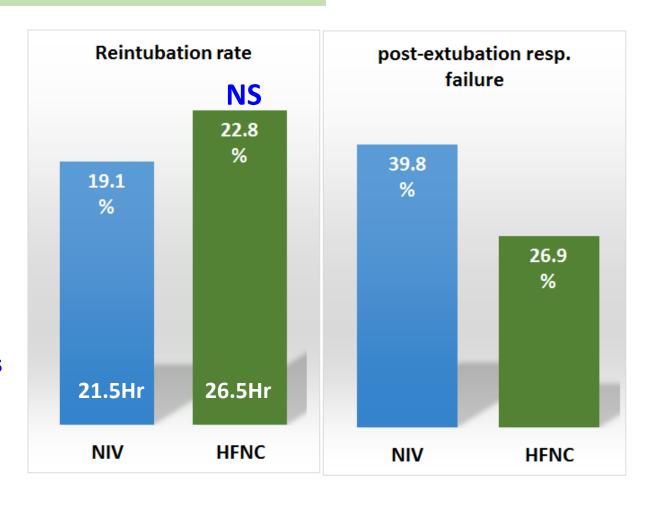
HFNC: high-flow nasal cannula; COT: conventional oxygen therapy; NIV: noninvasive ventilation; ERS: European Respiratory Society.

# Effect of Postextubation HFNC vs NIV on Reintubation and Postextubation Respiratory Failure in High-Risk Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial



604 patients from 3 centers in Spain

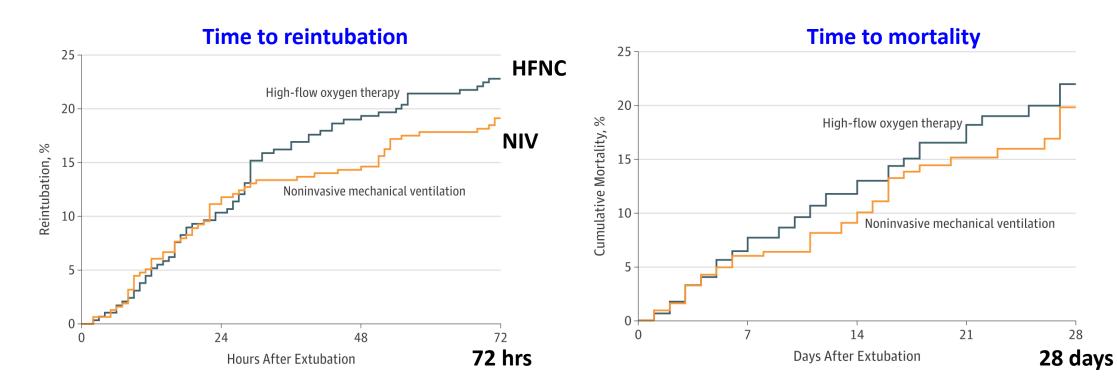
- High-risk extubation failure
  - Age > 65 years old
  - **Heart failure** for mechanical ventilation
  - Moderate to severe COPD
  - APACHE II > 12 on extubation day
  - BMI>30
  - High risk of laryngeal edema
  - Inability to deal with respiratory secretions
  - Difficult or proloned weaning
  - 2 or more comorbilidies
  - Mechanical ventilation for more than 7 days
- Randomize to HFNC or NIV for 24 hours
- Primary endpoints
  - Reintubation within 72 hours



#### Effect of Postextubation HFNC vs NIV on Reintubation and Postextubation Respiratory Failure in High-Risk Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial



604 patients from 3 centers in Spain



HFNC is non-inferior to NIV for preventing reintubation in high risk population

28

# Effect of Postextubation HFNC vs NIV on Reintubation and Postextubation Respiratory Failure in High-Risk Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial





Randomized clinical trial in 3 ICUs in Spain

HFN or NIV 24 hrs after extubation

Outcome	NIV	NHF	Absolute difference between groups (95% CI)
Median time to reintubation, hr (IQR)	21.5 (10 to 47)	26.5 (14 to 39)	-5 (-34 to 24)
Outcome	NIV	NHF	P value
Reintubations due to hypercapnic respiratory failure, n (%)	8 (2.5%)	6 (2%)	p = 0.63
Median ICU length of stay, days (IQR)	4 (2 to 9)	3 (2 to 7)	p = 0.048
Adverse events requiring treatment discontinuation for >18 hr, n (%)	135 (42.9)	0 (0)	p < 0.001

# Effect of postextubation NIV with active humidification vs HFNC on reintubation in patients at very high risk for extubation failure: a randomized trial

Prospective RCT in 2 ICUs

s/p MV with ≥4 risk factor

NIV vs. HFNC ≥ 48 hrs

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: reintubate in 7 days

	NIV $(n = 92)$	HFNC(n=90)
Age, mean (SD), y	60.9 (14.3)	59.9 (15.4)
Men, n (%)	67 (72.8)	50 (55.6)
APACHE II at ICU admission, median (IQR) <sup>a</sup>	19 (16.3–24)	19 (15–23)
Length of MV before extubation, median (IQR), days	4.5 (2–9)	5.5 (2–10)
Diagnosis at admission <sup>e</sup>		
Respiratory primary failure	59 (64.8)	49 (54.4)
SARS COVID-19 <sup>f</sup>	12 (13.1)	15 (16.7)
Hemodynamic failure	53 (57.6)	57 (63.3)
Neurologic failure	44 (47.8)	57 (63.3)
Trauma	15 (16.3)	15 (16.7)
Surgical	19 (20.7)	28 (31.1)

	NIV (n = 92)	HFNC(n=90)
High-risk factors for reintubation, no (%)		
Age > 65 y	42 (45.7)	41 (45.6)
Heart failure as primary indication for MV	25 (27.2)	6 (6.7)
COPD	28 (30.4)	14 (15.6)
APACHE II > 12 on extubation day <sup>a</sup>	53 (57.6)	56 (62.2)
Body mass index > 30 <sup>c</sup>	49 (53.3)	46 (51.1)
Airway patency problems	33 (35.9)	31 (34.4)
Inability to deal with respiratory secretions	31 (33.7)	47 (52.2)
Difficult or prolonged weaning <sup>d</sup>	60 (66.7)	59 (64.1)
≥ 2 comorbidities	75 (81.5)	61 (67.8)
Prolonged MV	36 (39.1)	43 (47.8)
Hypercapnia at the end of the SBT	47 (51.1)	27 (30)
High-risk factors, median (IQR)	5 (4–6)	4 (4–6)

# Effect of postextubation NIV with active humidification vs HFNC on reintubation in patients at very high risk for extubation failure: a randomized trial

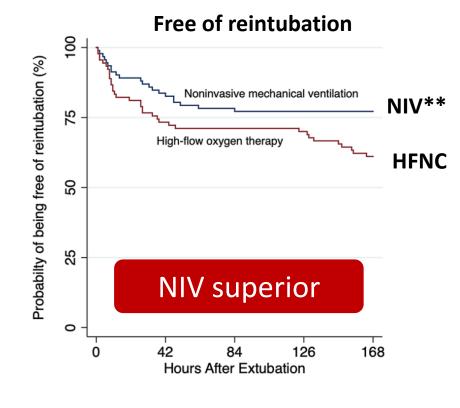
Prospective RCT in 2 ICUs

s/p MV with ≥4 risk factor

NIV vs. HFNC ≥ 48 hrs

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: reintubate in 7 days

	NIV (n = 92)	HFNC (n = 90)	Difference between groups (95%CI), p
Primary outcome, n (%)			
All-cause reintubation	21 (22.8)	35 (38.9)	-16.0 ( $-29.2$ to $-0.3$ ), $p = 0.019$
Secondary outcomes			
Postextubation respiratory failure, n (%)	40 (43.5)	40 (44.4)	-0.9(-15.4-13.5), p=0.896
Ventilator-associated tracheobronchitis, n (%	0 (0)	1 (1.1)	-1.1 (-3.3-1.1), p = 0.495
Sepsis, <i>n</i> (%)	4 (4.3)	3 (3.3)	1 (-5.5-7.6), p = 1.000
Multiorgan failure, n (%)	3 (3.3)	2 (2.2)	1 (-4.5-6.6), <i>p</i> = 1.000
ICU mortality, n (%)	12 (13)	4 (4.4)	9.7 (-1.1-18.7), <i>p</i> = 0.356
Intolerance to therapy, n (%)	19 (20.7)	8 (8.9)	11.7 (1.6–21.9), <i>p</i> = 0.026
Nasal discomfort, n (%)	18 (19.6)	6 (6.7)	12.9 (3.3–22.5), <i>p</i> = 0.010
Facial skin ulcer, n (%)	4 (4.3)	0 (0)	4.3 (0.1–8.5), <i>p</i> = 0.045
Exploratory outcomes			
Reintubation rate at 5 d, n (%)	21 (23.3)	26 (28.8)	0.321
Time to reintubation at 5 d, median (IQR), h	27 (6–47)	10 (6.5–28)	0.029



Hernandez G, et al. ICM 2022

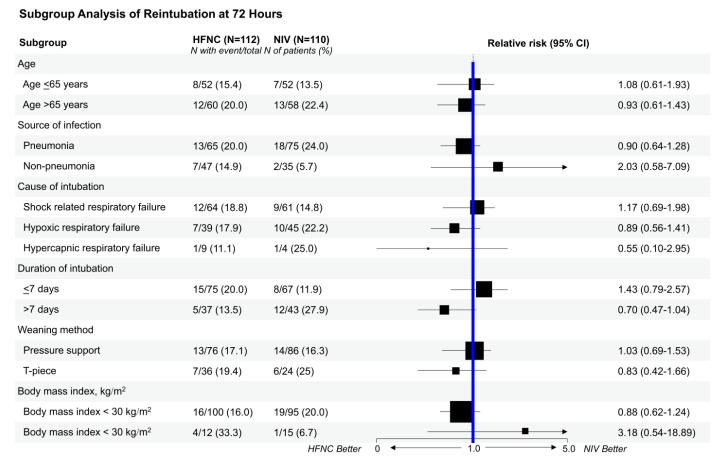
## High-flow nasal oxygen cannula vs. noninvasive mechanical ventilation to prevent reintubation in sepsis: a randomized controlled trial

Single center RCT in Thailand

Sepsis/septic shock with MV >48 hr

HFNC (n=112) vs. NIV (n=110)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: reintubation in 72 hrs Patients with Reintubation (%) HFNC non-inferior Hours from Extubation No. at risk **HFNC**



Tongyoo S et al., Annals of Intensive Care 2021

### Effect of Postextubation HFNO With NIV vs HFNO Alone on Reintubation Among Patients at High Risk of Extubation Failure: A Randomized Clinical **Trial**

Thille AW, et al. JAMA 2019

#### **POPULATION**



**425** Men **216** Women

Adults at high risk of failure to extubate, ie, older than 65 years or with an underlying cardiac or respiratory disease

Mean age: **70** years

#### LOCATIONS

30 **ICUs in France** 



#### INTERVENTION



**648** Patients randomized **641** Patients analyzed



#### **High-flow nasal** oxygen alone

High-flow nasal oxygen alone for at least 48 hours with a flow of 50 L/min

306

#### High-flow nasal oxygen with NIV

High-flow nasal oxygen with NIV with a first session ≥4 hours and minimal duration ≥12 hours/day within 48 hours

#### PRIMARY OUTCOME

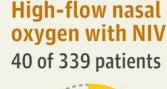
Proportion of patients reintubated at day 7

#### **FINDINGS**

Reintubation rate at day 7

**High-flow nasal** oxygen alone

55 of 302 patients







Between-group difference,

-6.4%

(95% CI, -12.0% to -0.9%)

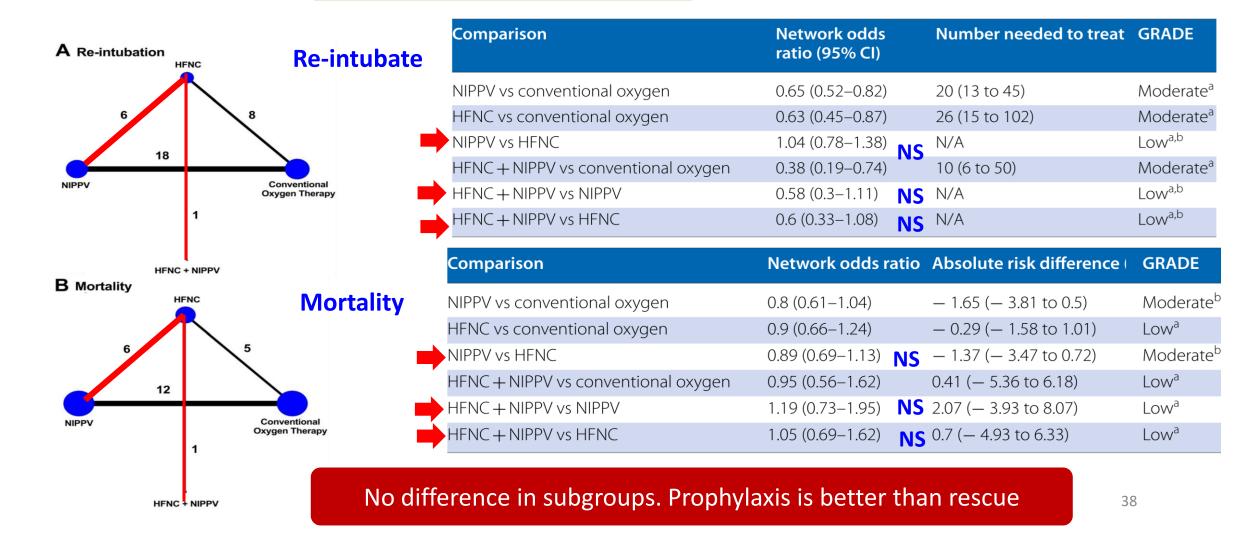
© AMA

## Noninvasive respiratory support following extubation in critically ill adults: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

6806 cases from 36 RCTs

NIPPV vs. HFNC vs. HFNC+NIV vs. O2

Fernando SM, et al. ICM 2022



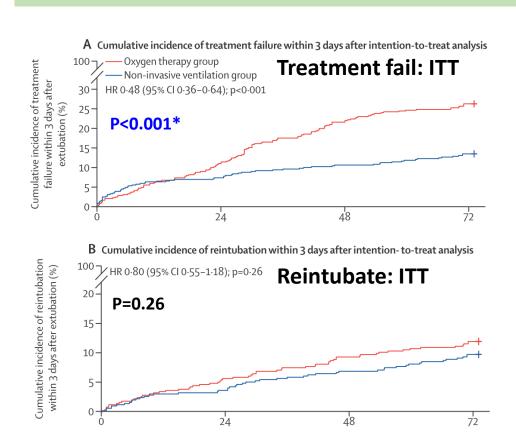
## Effect of NIV after extubation in critically ill patients with obesity in France: a multicentre, unblinded, pragmatic randomised clinical trial

RCT, 39 ICUs in France

NIV alternate with HFNC/COT (n=466) vs. Oxygen group: (HFNC, n=234 or COT, n=239)

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: 3 days treatment failure-reintubate, switch, discontinue

N=981



	NIV group (n=490)	Oxygen therapy group (n=491)	Relative risk (95% CI)	p value
Primary outcome: treatment failure	66 (13%)	130 (26%) **	0.43 (0.31 to 0.60)	<0.0001
Reintubation within 3 days after extubation	48 (10%)	59 (12%) <b>NS</b>	0.80 (0.53 to 1.19)	0.26
Switch to the other study treatment*	0	67 (14%) **	0.0064 (0.0004 to 0.10)	<0.0001
Premature discontinuation of study treatment†	18 (4%)	4 (1%)	4·2 (1·5 to 12·0)	0.002
Exploratory‡				
Reintubation within 7 days after extubation ICU mortality	68/489 (14%) 29/486 (6%)	77/490 (16%) 31/490 (6%)	0.87 (0.61 to 1.23) 0.94 (0.56 to 1.58)	0.94 0.94

# Humidified NIV versus High-Flow Therapy to Prevent Reintubation in Patients with Obesity: A Randomized Clinical Trial

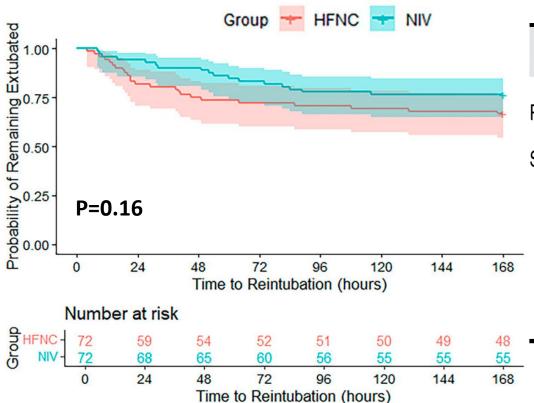
RCT in 2 ICUs in Spain

BMI >30 + <3 risk factors

NIV vs. HFNC ≥ 48 hrs

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: reintubate in 7 days

Kaplan-Meier Curves for Time to Reintubation



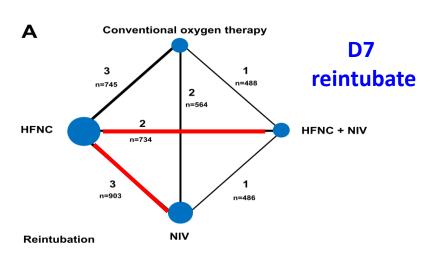
Variable	HFNC (n = 72)	NIV (n=72)	P Value
Primary outcome All-cause reintubation within the first 7 d, n (%)	24 (33.3)	17 (23.6)	0.268
Secondary outcomes Postextubation respiratory failure, <i>n</i> (%)	24 (33.3)	28 (38.9)	0.603
Hospital LOS, median (25th-75th percentile), d ICU LOS, median (25th-75th percentile), d	22.5 (10.0–40.5)	28.5 (19.0–38.5)	0.066
	6.5 (3–17)	11 (6–20)	0.022
ICU mortality, <i>n</i> (%) Hospital mortality, <i>n</i> (%)	8 (11.1)	10 (13.9)	0.801
	8 (11.1)	10 (13.9)	0.801
Intolerance to therapy, $n$ (%) Facial skin ulcer, $n$ (%)	3 (4.2)	11 (15.3)	0.049
	0 (0)	2 (2.8)	0.476

# Noninvasive respiratory support following extubation in critically ill adults with obesity: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

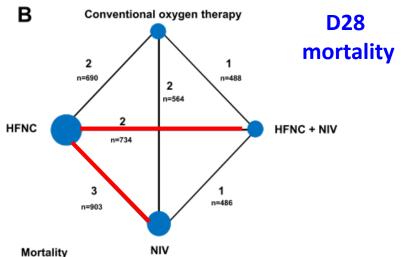
1993 cases from 7 RCTs

NIV vs. HFNC vs. NIV/HFNC vs. COT

1<sup>st</sup> endpoint: reintubation in 7 days



Comparison	Network risk ratio (95% CI)	p-value	Number needed to treat	Grade
NIV vs COT	0.45 (0.23; 0.88)	0.02	11 (8–50)	Moderate <sup>a</sup>
HFNC vs COT	0.79 (0.40; 1.59)	0.51	NA	Low <sup>a,b</sup>
NIV vs HFNC	0.57 (0.32; 1.02)	0.06 <b>NS</b>	NA	Very low <sup>a,b,c</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs COT	0.36 (0.16; 0.82)	0.01	10 (7–33)	Moderate <sup>a</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs NIV	0.80 (0.38; 1.72)	0.57	NA	Very low <sup>a,b,c</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs HFNC	0.46 (0.23; 0.90)	0.02 **	14 (10-77)	Moderate <sup>a</sup>



Comparison	Network risk ratio (95% CI)	p-value	Number needed to treat	Grade
NIV vs COT	0.41 (0.13; 1.25)	0.12	NA	Low <sup>a,b</sup>
HFNC vs COT	1.32 (0.43; 4.10)	0.63	NA	Very low <sup>a,b,c</sup>
NIV vs HFNC	0.31 (0.13; 0.74)	<0.01 **	15 (12–40)	Low <sup>a,c</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs COT	0.40 (0.11; 1.43)	0.16	NA	Low <sup>a,b</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs NIV	0.97 (0.29; 3.19)	0.96	NA	Very low <sup>a,b,c</sup>
NIV + HFNC vs HFNC	0.30 (0.10; 0.89)	0.03 **	15 (11–90)	Moderate <sup>a</sup>

Pensier J, et al. eClinicalMedicine 2025

# ERS Clinical Practice Guidelines: high-flow nasal cannula in acute respiratory failure

PICO question 7: Should HFNC or NIV be used in nonsurgical patients after extubation? Recommendation 7

We suggest the use of NIV over HFNC after extubation for patients at high risk of extubation failure unless there are relative or absolute contraindications to NIV (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence).

#### **Justification**

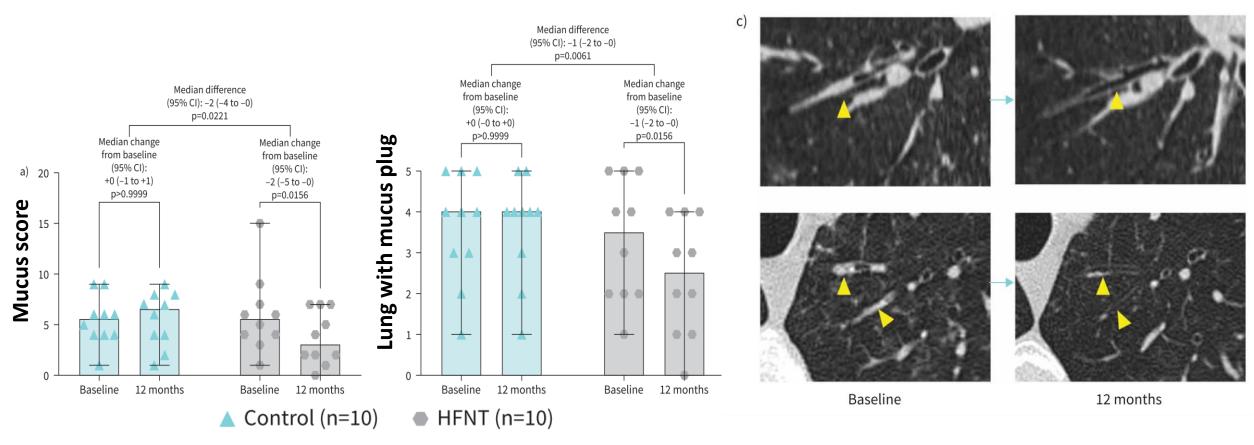
HFNC appears to result in small, but probably clinically important increased risk of reintubation (~4%) compared to NIV in nonsurgical patients at high risk of extubation failure. However, compared to NIV, HFNC slightly improves patient comfort. Therefore, in patients who are intolerant or have contraindications to NIV, HFNC may be an alternative to NIV for preventing post-extubation respiratory failure. NIV interspaced with HFNC breaks between NIV sessions is a strategy that may be effective to further improve oxygenation and reduce post-extubation respiratory failure by gaining the benefits of NIV, with increased comfort from HFNC [113]. The task force judges that the large majority of the patients would value avoiding reintubation over the increased comfort of HFNC, and, thus, in patients without any contraindications, NIV would generally be preferred. There is limited evidence related to costs for both NIV and HFNC, and these are likely to vary between centres.

# Impact of long-term high-flow nasal therapy on mucus plugs in patients with bronchiectasis

20 bronchiectasis cases

10 with home HFNC vs. 10 without HFNC

Chest CT before and after 12 months



Crimi C, et al. ERJ Open Research 2025

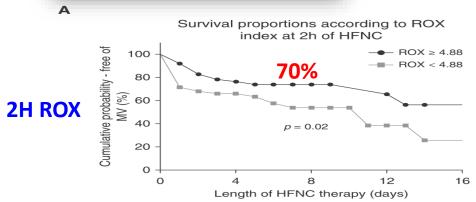
# An Index Combining Respiratory Rate and Oxygenation to Predict Outcome of Nasal High-Flow Therapy



4.88

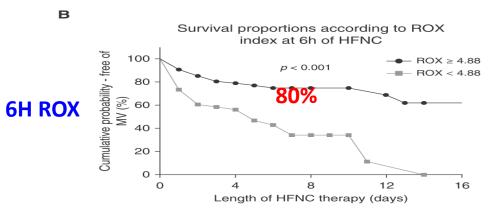
2-yr multicenter prospective observational study

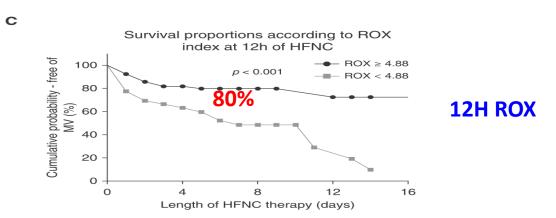
patients with pneumonia treated with HFNC

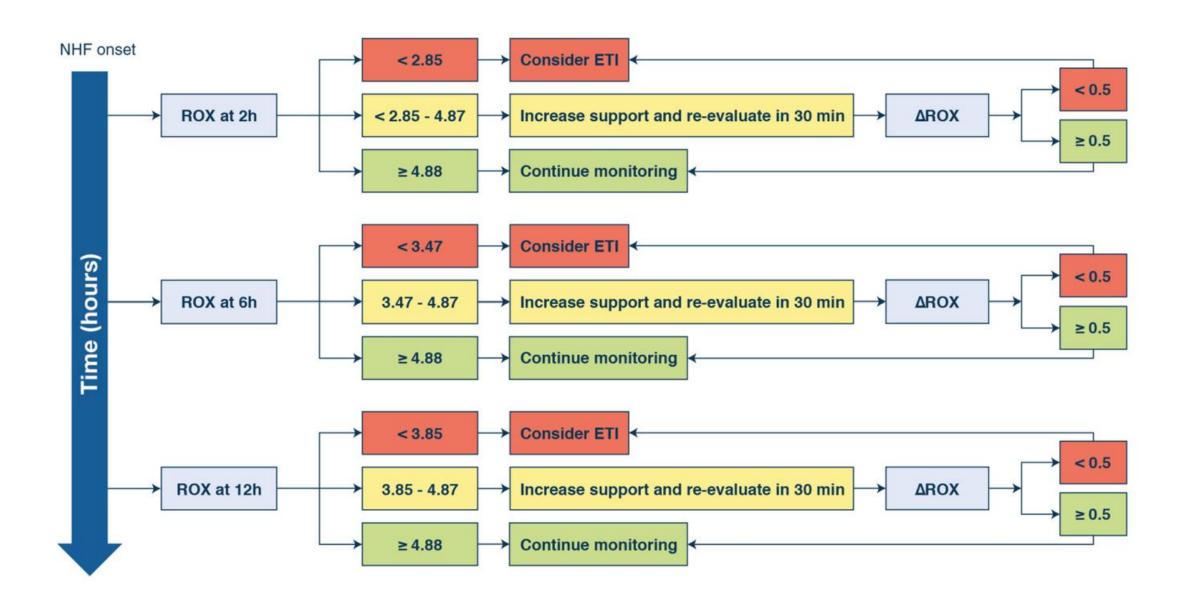


**Table 3.** Diagnostic Accuracy of Different Respiratory Variables at Different Time Points of Need for MV in Patients Treated with HFNC in the Validation Cohort

Variable	Time	AUROC	95% CI	P Value
ROX index	Prior to HFNC	0.659	0.566-0.751	0.001
	2 h	0.679	0.594-0.763	<0.001
	6 h	0.703	0.616-0.790	<0.001
	12 h	0.752	0.664-0.840	<0.001
	18 h	0.755	0.662-0.847	<0.001
	24 h	0.801	0.709-0.893	<0.001







## The Take Away.....

- Both HFNC and NIV provide non-invasive ventilatory support
  - Pros of HFNC: constant FiO2, small PEEP, reduce WOB, lower risk of P-SILI, comfort
  - Pros of NIV: reliable PEEP with alveolar recruitment, muscle unloading, reduce LV afterload
- ERS 2022 guidelines
  - Recommend HFNC over NIV in acute hypoxemic respiratory failure
  - Recommend NIV over HFNC in high-risk post extubation patients
  - Clinical data are controversial
  - HFNC can be used as a "bridge" therapy
- Prevention is always better than rescue
- NIV alternate with HFNC may offer benefits
- Frequent evaluation after applying HFNC is important: never delay intubation

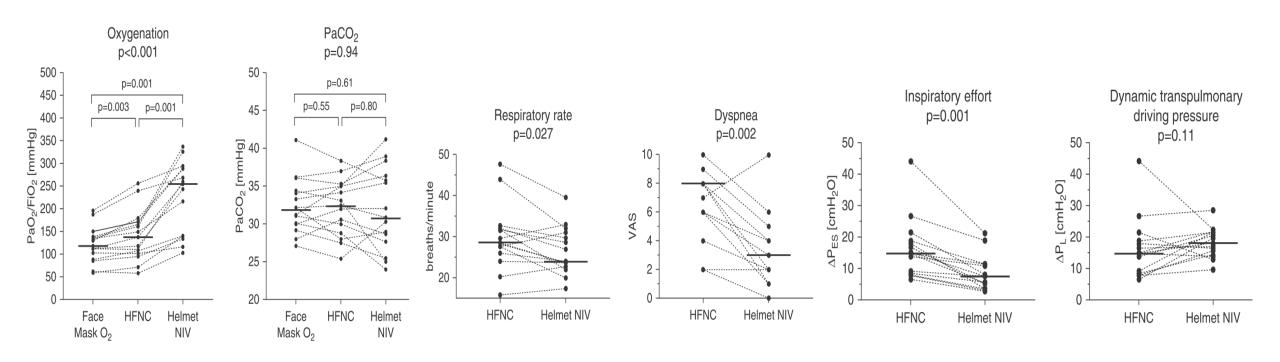


# Physiological Comparison of High-Flow Nasal Cannula and Helmet Noninvasive Ventilation in Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

15 hypoxiemic pt with PF ratio<200

Helmet NIV (PEEP >10, PS 10-15) vs. HFNC (50L/min)

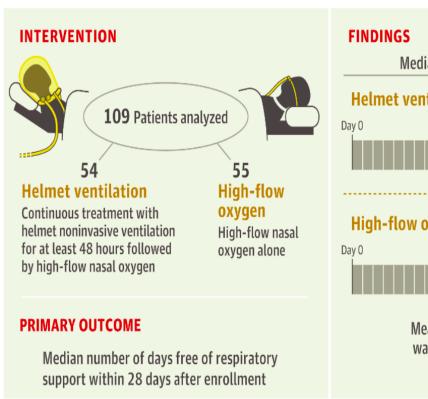
Randomize crossover



# Effect of Helmet Noninvasive Ventilation vs High-Flow Nasal Oxygen on Days Free of Respiratory Support in Patients With COVID-19 and Moderate to Severe Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure HENIVOT trial

110 COVID patients with PF ratio  $\leq$  200

Helmet NIV (PEEP >10, PS 10-12) vs. HFNC (60L/min)



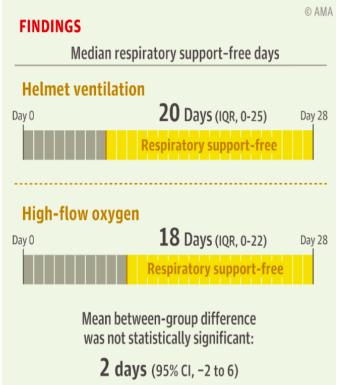
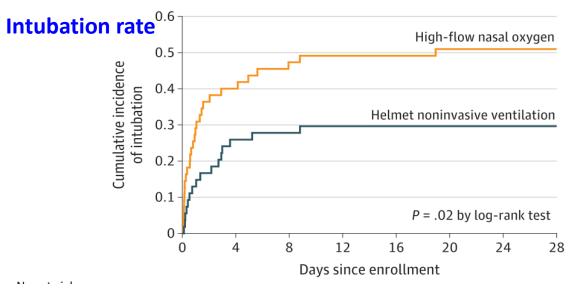


Figure 3. Cumulative Incidence of Intubation Over Time in the Helmet Noninvasive Ventilation and High-Flow Nasal Oxygen Groups to Day 28



## Effect of Postextubation High-Flow Nasal Cannula vs Noninvasive Ventilation on Reintubation and Postextubation Respiratory Failure in High-Risk Patients



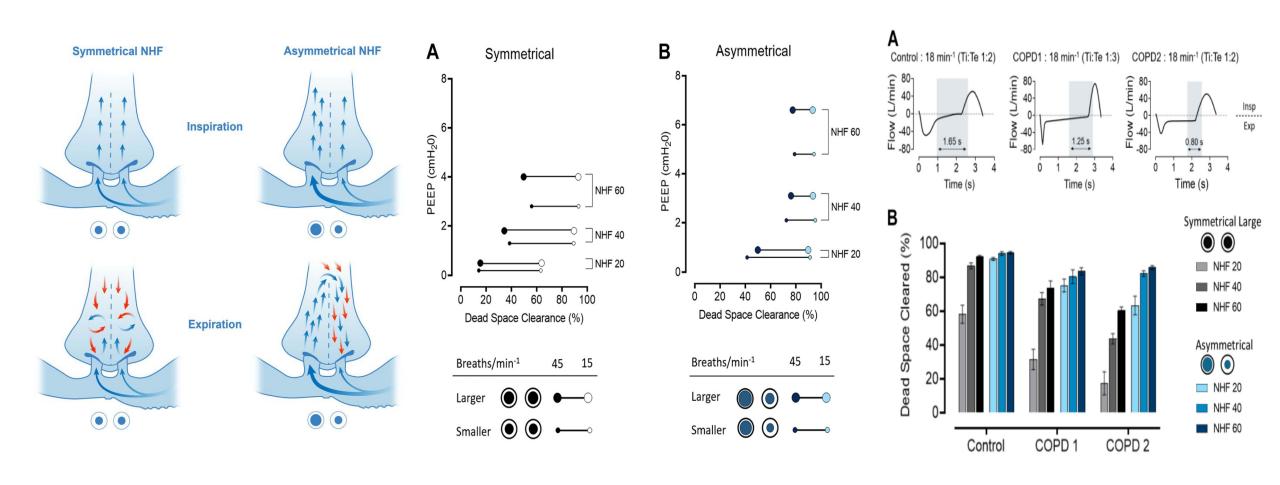


Randomized clinical trial in 3 ICUs in Spain

HFN or NIV 24 hrs after extubation

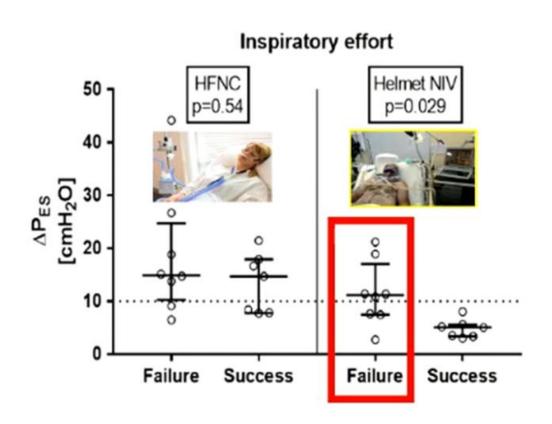
Outcome	NIV	NHF	Absolute difference between groups (95% CI)
Median time to reintubation, hr (IQR)	21.5 (10 to 47)	26.5 (14 to 39)	-5 (-34 to 24)
Outcome	NIV	NHF	P value
Reintubations due to hypercapnic respiratory failure, n (%)	8 (2.5%)	6 (2%)	p = 0.63
Median ICU length of stay, days (IQR)	4 (2 to 9)	3 (2 to 7)	p = 0.048
Adverse events requiring treatment discontinuation for >18 hr, n (%)	135 (42.9)	0 (0)	p < 0.001

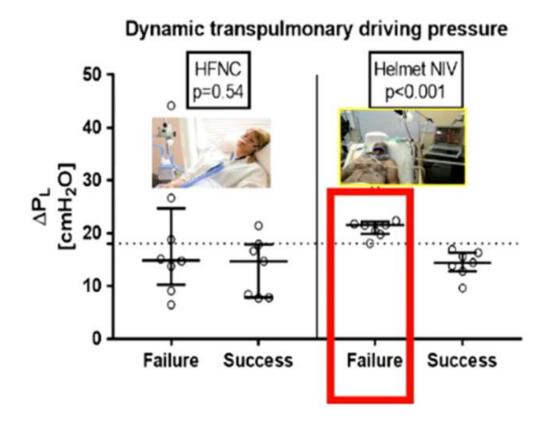
# Asymmetrical nasal high flow ventilation improves clearance of CO2 from the anatomical dead space and increases positive airway pressure



Tatkov S, et al. J Appl Physiø 2023

### Lower risk of P-SILI in HFNC vs. NIV-helmet





## ESICM guidelines on acute respiratory distress syndrome: definition, phenotyping and respiratory support strategies

 Question 3.2: In non-mechanically ventilated patients with AHRF not due to cardiogenic pulmonary edema or acute exacerbation of COPD, does HFNO compared to non-invasive ventilation reduce mortality or intubation?

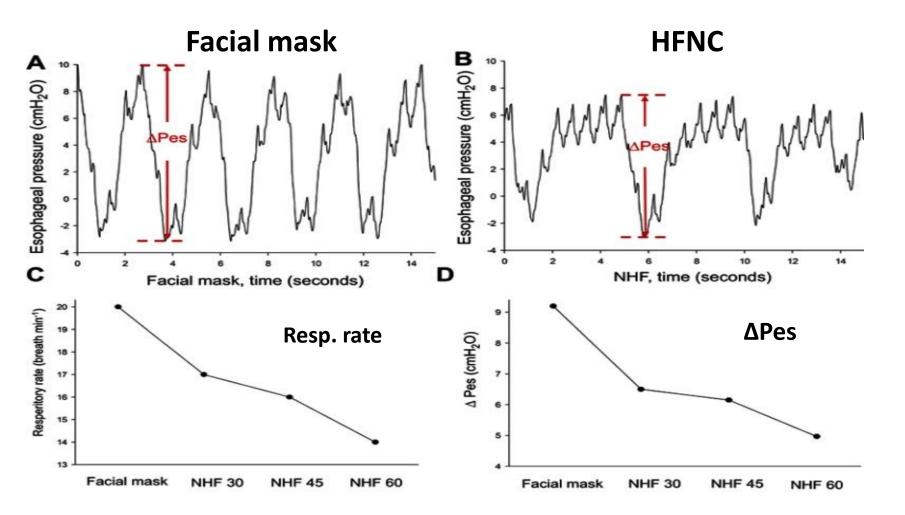
#### Recommendation 3.2:

- We are unable to make a recommendation for or against the use of HFNO compared to continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)/NIV to reduce intubation or mortality in the treatment of unselected patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure not due to cardiogenic pulmonary edema or acute exacerbation of COPD.
- We suggest that CPAP/NIV can be considered instead of HFNO for the treatment of AHRF due to COVID-19 to reduce the risk of intubation (weak recommendation, high level of evidence), but no recommendation can be made for whether CPAP/NIV can decrease mortality compared to HFNO in COVID-19.

### FLORALI vs. RENOVATE

	FLORALI	RENOVATE (hypoxic group)
Case number	310	485
Inclusion	PaO2 <300 in >10L O2	SpO2 <90 or PaO2<60
Exclusion	Neutropenia	Immunocompromised
Design	Multicenter, RCT	Multicenter, RCT, non-inferior (10% margin)
1 <sup>st</sup> endpoint	Intubation in 28 days	Intubate/death in 7 days
PF ratio	Mean 156 (77% <200)	Median 191-194
Resp rate	33±6	28 (26-31)
Severity	SAPS II: 25	SAPS III: 60
Pneumonia	80%	Not reported
NIV setting	Target volume 7-10ml/kg	Target volume 6-9ml/kg
HFNC/NIV days	>2 days	HFNC 2 days/NIV 1 day
Outcome		
Intubation rate	28 days: 38% vs. 50%**	7 days: 31% vs. 29%
28D mortality	11% vs. 25%	24.5% vs. 28.4%
90D mortality	12% vs. 23%	29.7% vs. 33.9%
28 days MV free	24 days vs. 19 days	Median: 28 das vs. 28 days

## HFNC decrease inspiratory efforts and P-SILI



Decreased esophageal pressure swing

Less risk of P-SILI

Reduce respiratory effort

P-SILI: patient- self inflicted lung injury