

Recent advances in the ventilatory strategies for ARDS

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媽媽們，母親節快樂！

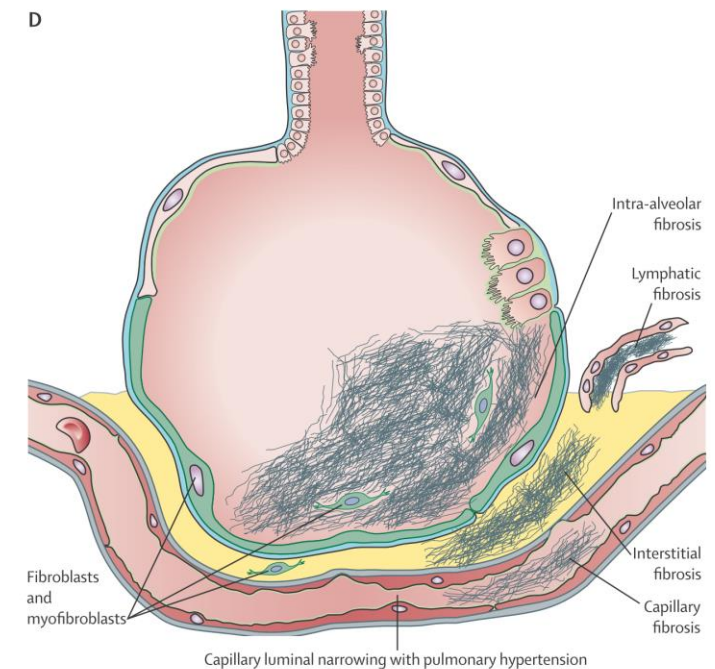
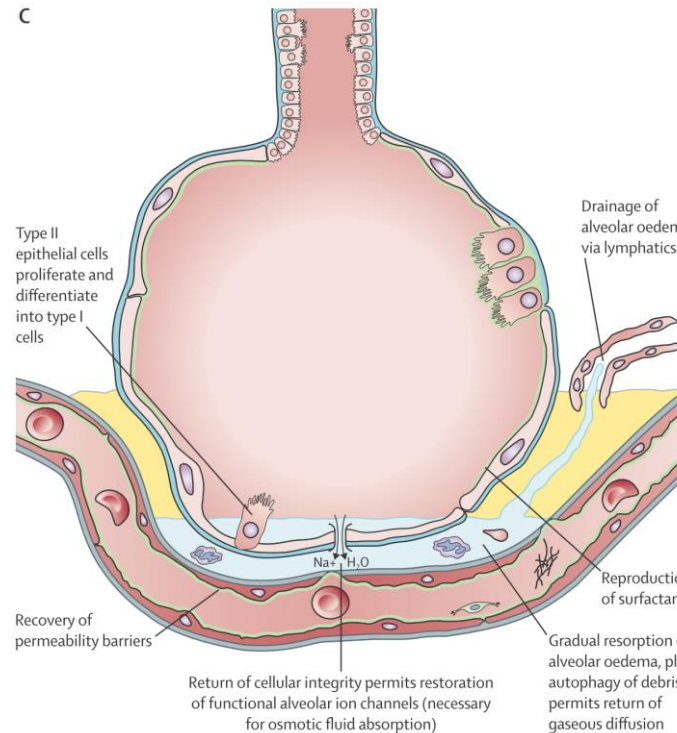
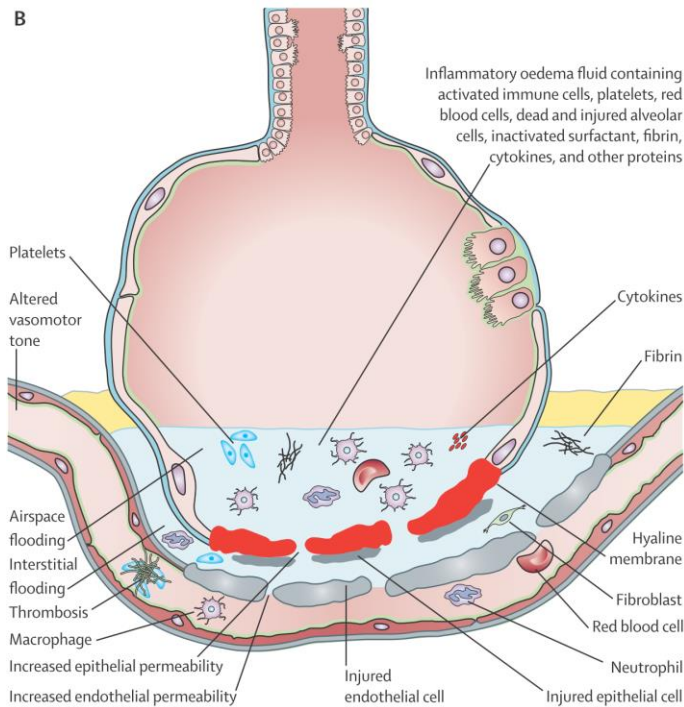
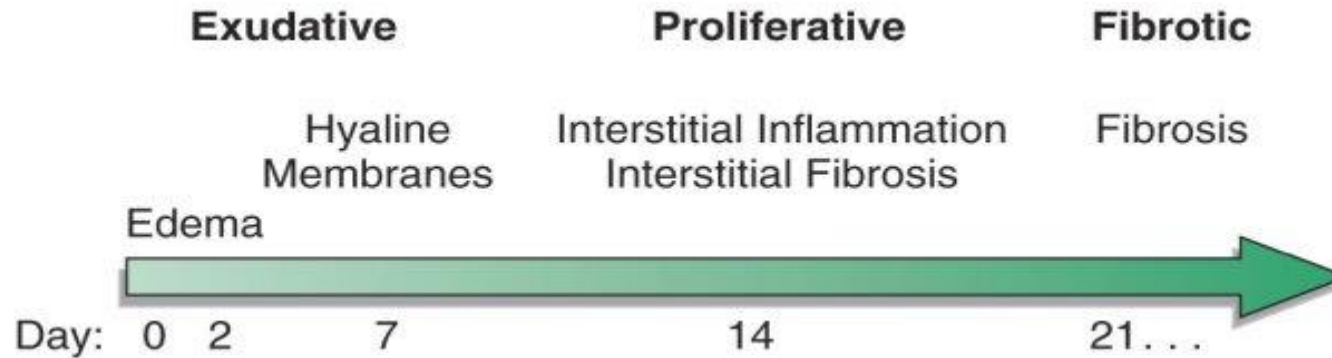


課程Outline

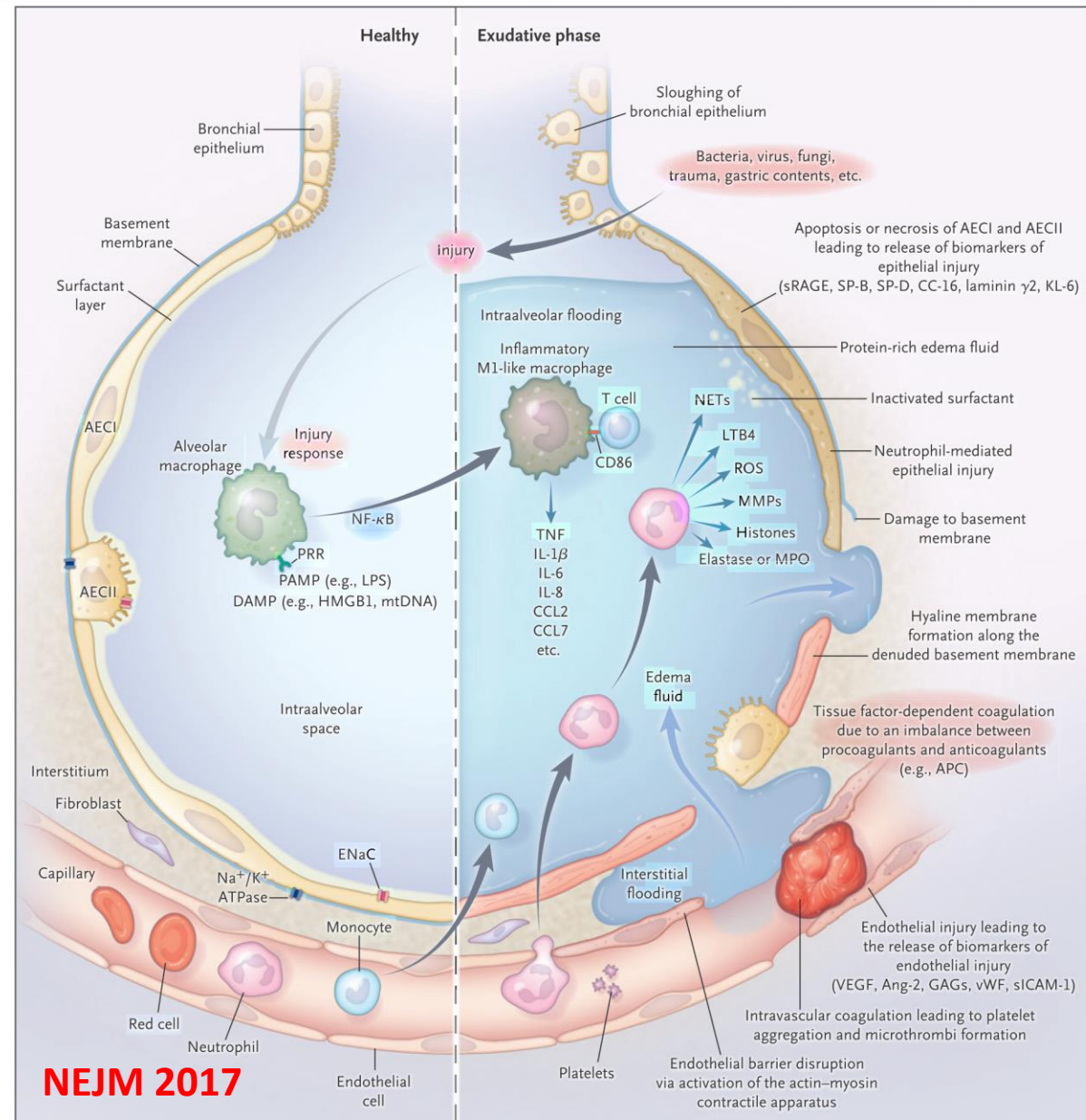
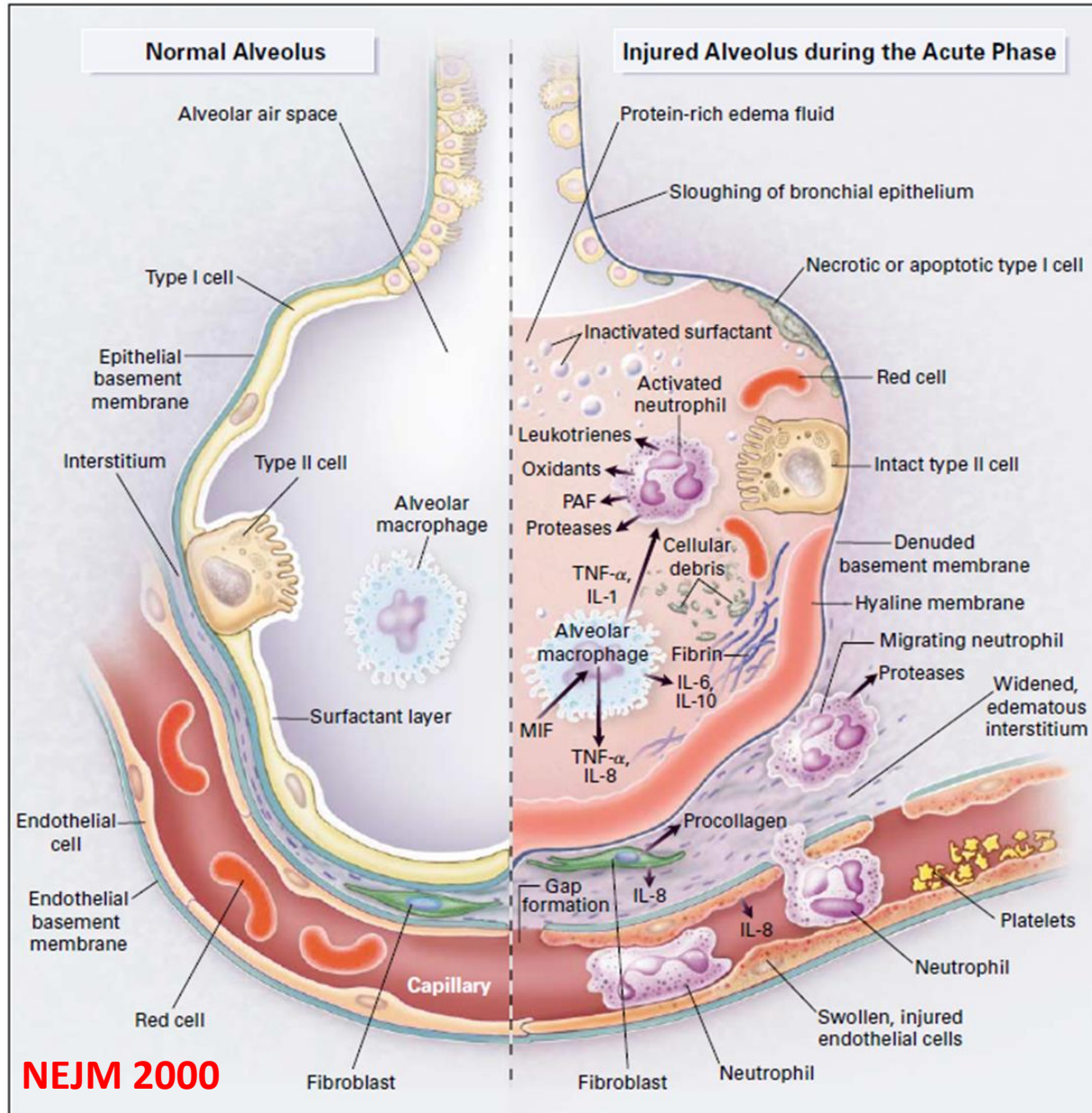
- ARDS ventilation 的核心問題
- ARDS 定義更新
- Lung-protective ventilation
- PEEP strategy
- Driving pressure and Optimal PEEP
- Recruitment maneuver and recruitability
- EIT-guided personalization
- APRV、HFOV、ECCO₂-R
- Take-home message

ARDS ventilation 的核心問題

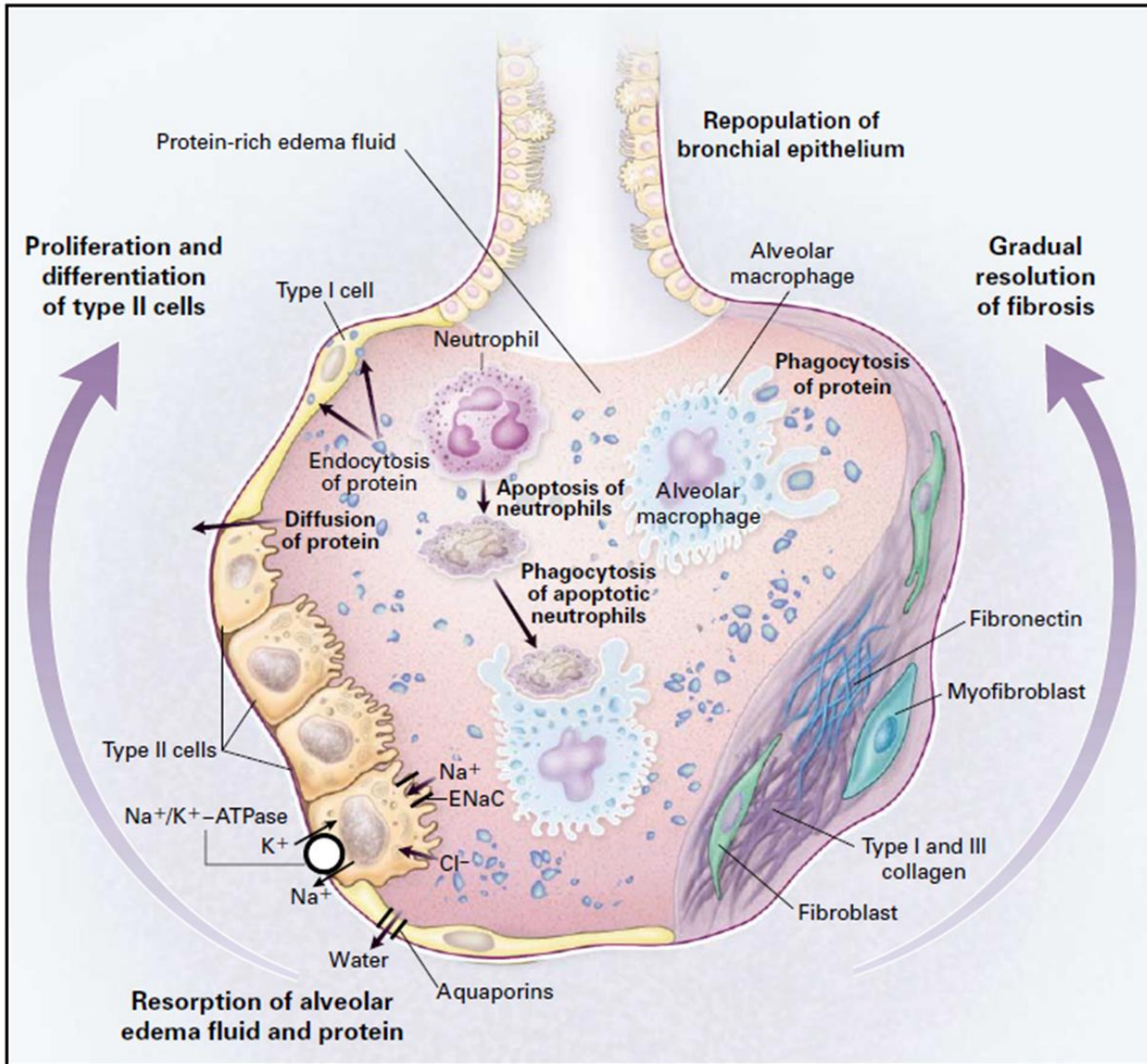
ARDS的三個病程階段 (微觀層面)



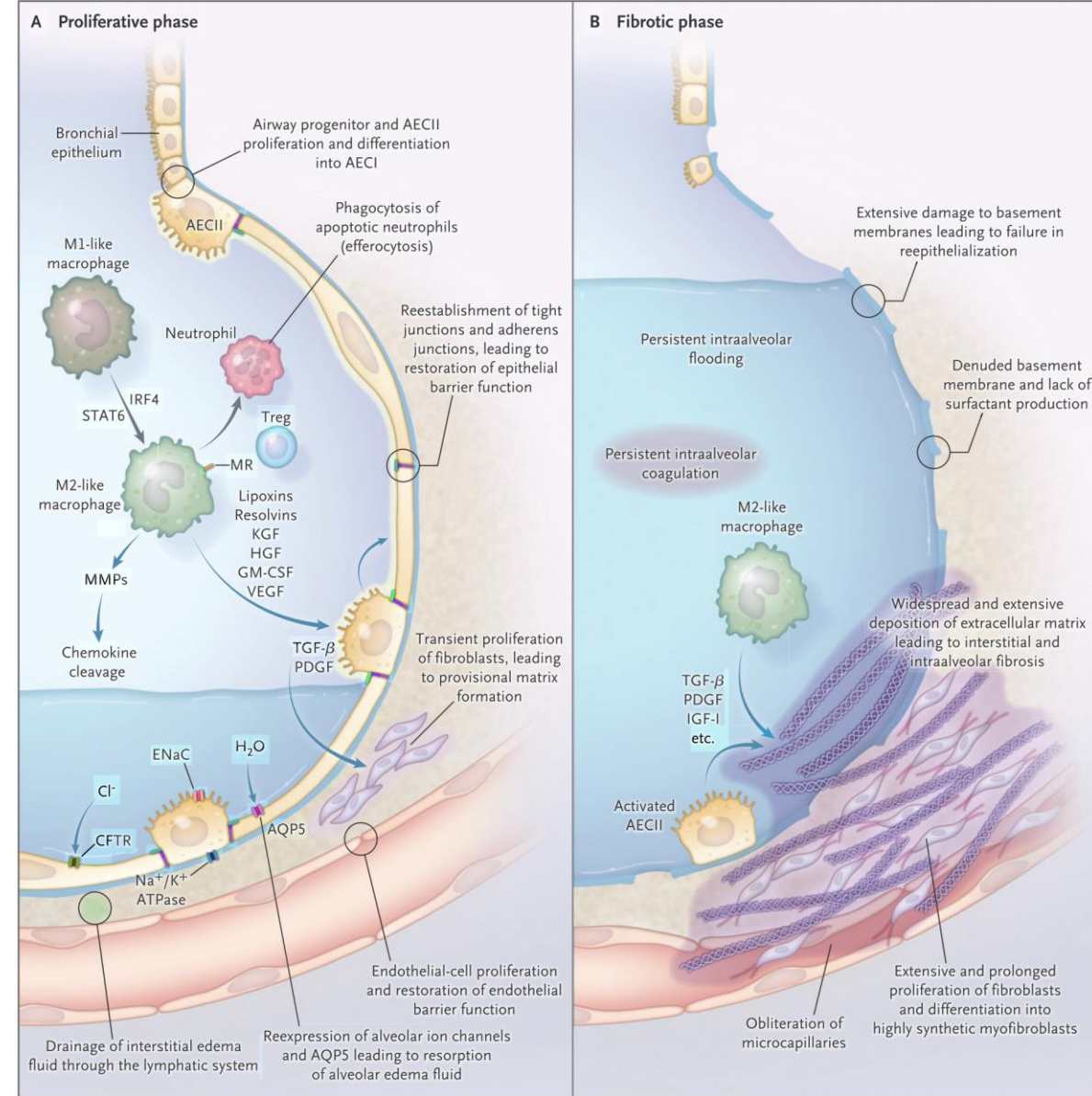
Exudative phase in ARDS



Proliferative and Fibrotic phase in ARDS



NEJM 2000



NEJM 2017

肺部狀態 (宏觀層面)

狀態

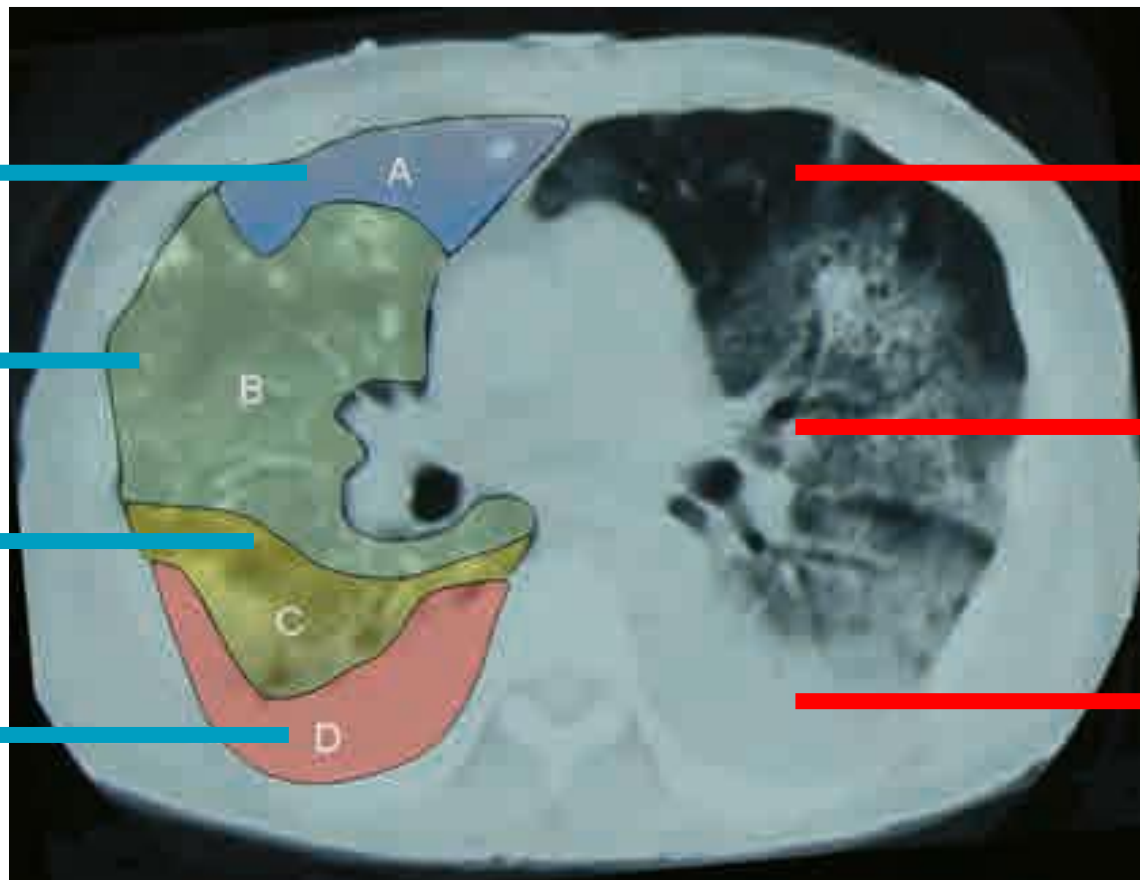
策略

Hyperinflation

Normal ventilation

Cyclical opening and closing

Collapse



Lung protection

Alveolar stabilization

Alveolar recruitment

“Open up the lung and keep the lung open”

— Lachmann, Intensive Care Medicine, 1992

“Open collapsed lung units and keep them opened”

— ART trial, JAMA, 2017

呼吸器治療ARDS的本質

- 不是設定一組漂亮參數
- 而是讓「輸入肺的機械能量」與「肺當下可承受的生物力學容量」相匹配
- ARDS ventilation is an energy-matching problem in a heterogeneous lung.

Mechanical power 機械功率

- **Mechanical power** : amount of energy per unit of time generated by the mechanical ventilation and released on the respiratory system, unifying the mechanical drivers of VILI, has been proposed as a determinant of the VILI pathogenesis.

$$MP(\text{J}/\text{min}) = 0.098 \times RR \times VT \times (P_{peak} - 0.5 \times \Delta P)$$

- 其中 0.098 為能量單位轉換係數。
- ΔP 代表驅動壓 (Driving Pressure)。

ARDS ventilation的終極理想目標

A. regional stress/strain distribution (病人端)先判斷肺是什麼樣的肺

- 重點不是只有 ARDS 嚴重度的P/F ratio
- 而是: baby lung 還剩多少
- recruitable lung 有多少
- 哪些區域在 cyclic opening-closing
- 哪些區域已經接近 overdistension
- 有沒有高 effort / pendelluft / RV strain

B. total energy load unit time (mechanical power) (治療端)再決定要灌進多少機械能量

- 所以不是先問「PEEP 要不要高一點？」
- 而是先問: 這個肺現在最怕的是 collapse，還是 overdistension？
- 現在最需要的是 recruitment，還是 unloading？
- 現在增加的每一分能量，是在打開肺，還是在傷害肺？

ARDS 定義更新

2012 Berlin Definition-柏林定義

表五：ARDS的柏林定義(Berlin definition)²⁰

急性呼吸窘迫症候群 ARDS	
發生時間	一周內發生的臨床事件或新的/惡化的呼吸症狀
胸部影像	無法完全以積液、肺場陷或肺結節就可以解釋的雙側肺陰影(opacity)
肺水腫的來源	無法完全以心衰竭或積液過多解釋的呼吸衰竭 假如沒有ARDS危險因子的存在，就必須藉由其它的客觀方式，例如心臟超音波，來排除靜水性肺水腫(hydrostatic edema)
氧合能力	
輕度	$200 \text{ mmHg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 \leq 300 \text{ mmHg} + \text{PEEP 或 CPAP} \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$
中度	$100 \text{ mmHg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 \leq 200 \text{ mmHg} + \text{PEEP} \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$
重度	$\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 \leq 100 \text{ mmHg} + \text{PEEP} \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$

註：CPAP: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure 連續式正壓呼吸。

Berlin Definition of ARDS : 嚴重度高 死亡率高

Table 4. Predictive Validity of ARDS Definitions in the Clinical Database

	Modified AECC Definition ^a		Berlin Definition ARDS ^a		
	ALI Non-ARDS	ARDS	Mild	Moderate	Severe
No. (%) [95% CI] of patients	1001 (24) [23-25]	3187 (76) [75-77]	819 (22) [21-24]	1820 (50) [48-51]	1031 (28) [27-30]
Progression in 7 d from mild, No. (%) [95% CI]		336 (34) [31-37]		234 (29) [26-32]	33 (4) [3-6]
Progression in 7 d from moderate, No. (%) [95% CI]					230 (13) [11-14]
Mortality, No. (%) [95% CI] ^b	263 (26) [23-29]	1173 (37) [35-38]	220 (27) [24-30]	575 (32) [29-34]	461 (45) [42-48]
Ventilator-free days, median (IQR) ^b	20 (2-25)	12 (0-22)	20 (1-25)	16 (0-23)	1 (0-20)
Duration of mechanical ventilation in survivors, median (IQR), d ^b	5 (2-10)	7 (4-14)	5 (2-11)	7 (4-14)	9 (5-17)

Abbreviations: AECC, American-European Consensus Conference; ALI, acute lung injury; ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; FiO_2 , fraction of inspired oxygen; IQR, interquartile range; PaO_2 , arterial partial pressure of oxygen; PEEP, positive end-expiratory pressure.

^aThe definitions are the following for ALI non-ARDS ($200 \text{ mm Hg} < PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 300 \text{ mm Hg}$, regardless of PEEP), ARDS ($PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 200 \text{ mm Hg}$, regardless of PEEP), mild Berlin Definition ($200 \text{ mm Hg} < PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 300 \text{ mm Hg}$ with $PEEP \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$), moderate Berlin Definition ($100 \text{ mm Hg} < PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 200 \text{ mm Hg}$ with $PEEP \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$), and severe Berlin Definition ($PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 100 \text{ mm Hg}$ with $PEEP \geq 5 \text{ cm H}_2\text{O}$).

^bComparisons of mortality, ventilator-free days, and duration of mechanical ventilation in survivors across categories of modified AECC (ALI non-ARDS and ARDS) and across

ESICM vs. ATS guidelines in 2023



CONFERENCE REPORTS AND EXPERT PANEL

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



AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY DOCUMENTS

An Update on Management of Adult Patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline

2024年新定義 - 情境更具體

A New Global Definition of Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Several developments after Berlin definition in 2012:

Use of high-flow nasal oxygenation (**HFNO**)

Expansion use of pulse oximeter in place of ABG (**S/F ratio**)

Use of **ultrasound** for chest image

Need for applicability in **resources-limited settings**

Patient Description

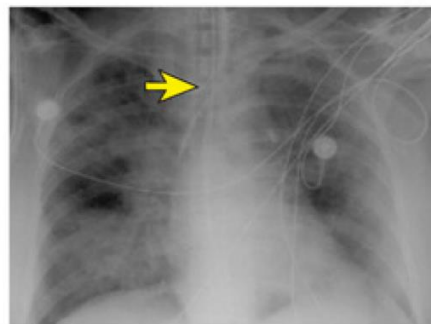
Imaging

Oxygenation

ARDS Categories



68-year-old M with abdominal sepsis, septic shock, and acute hypoxemic respiratory failure



Mechanically ventilated
 FiO_2 0.5
 PaO_2 75
P/F = 150 mm Hg

Intubated ARDS
Severity: Moderate
Typical patient included in prior Berlin definition



54-year-old F with history of breast cancer, COVID-19 pneumonia, and worsening shortness of breath for the past 6 days

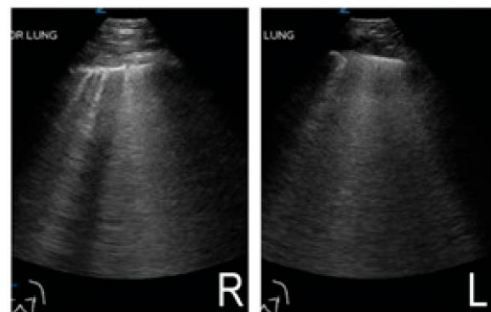


High-flow nasal oxygen
HFNO 40L/min
 FiO_2 0.80
 SpO_2 91%
S/F = 114

Nonintubated ARDS
New category in Global definition



39-year-old F with abdominal sepsis and gram-negative bacteremia in a small under-resourced hospital without blood gases, radiography, or mechanical ventilation



Supplemental oxygen by face mask at 15L/min
 FiO_2 0.6
 SpO_2 85%
S/F = 142

ARDS in resource-limited settings
New category in global definition, consistent with the Kigali modification

Criteria applicable to specific etiologies of ARDS

	Non-intubated ARDS	Intubated ARDS	Resource-limited settings
Oxygen and respiratory support requirement	P/F \leq 300 or S/F \leq 315	Mild: 200 < P/F \leq 300 or 235 \leq S/F \leq 315	S/F \leq 315
	HFNC \geq 30L/min or	Moderate: 100 < P/F \leq 200 or 148 < S/F \leq 235	Neither NIV nor a minimum oxygen flow rate are required for diagnosis
	NIV (PEEP \geq 5 cmH ₂ O)	Severe: P/F \leq 100 or S/F \leq 148	

*apply S/F \leq 97% in all non-intubated criteria

*estimated FiO₂ = ambient FiO₂ (e.g., 0.21) + 0.03 X O₂ flow rate (L/min) for **resource limited settings**

***Rice linear equation** to define cutoff values (*Comparison of the SpO₂/FIO₂ ratio and the PaO₂/FIO₂ ratio in patients with acute lung injury or ARDS. Chest 2007;132: 410 – 417.*)

$$\mathbf{S/F = 64 + 0.84 \times (P/F)}$$

ARDS的2023年最新指引又有哪些重點? (ESICM)

	2017	2023	CHANGE IN RECOMMENDATION	COMMENTS
Definition			★	No comparison available as the 2017 guidelines did not include a Definition domain.
Phenotypes			★	No comparison available as the 2017 guidelines did not include an ARDS Phenotype domain.
High flow nasal oxygen			★	No comparison available as the 2017 guidelines did not include recommendations on high flow nasal oxygen.
Non-invasive ventilation			★	No comparison available as the 2017 guideline did not include recommendations on non-invasive ventilation.
Tidal volume			⊘	In agreement with the use of low tidal volume strategies. 2023 guidelines extend this recommendation to patients with COVID-19.
Positive end-expiratory pressure			↻	2017 : suggest that adult patients with moderate or severe ARDS receive higher rather than lower levels of PEEP. 2023 : analysis of data does not allow to make a recommendation for or against higher PEEP strategy.
Recruitment maneuvers			↻	2017 : suggest that adult patients with ARDS receive RMs. 2023 : recommend against RMs due to increased mortality and risks.

Oscillator ~~X~~ ventilation



2017: recommend that HFOV not be used routinely in patients with moderate or severe ARDS.
2023: not examined given the absence of studies since 2017 and the lack of use of HFVO in adults.

Prone position



Agreement with the use of prone position in ARDS. Additions in **2023** are the use of awake proning and the use in COVID-19.

Neuromuscular blockade



No comparison available as the **2017** guidelines did not include recommendations on neuromuscular blockade.

Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation



2017: additional evidence is necessary to make a definitive recommendation.
2023: recommend ECMO in patients with severe ARDS.

Extracorporeal CO₂ removal



No comparison available as the **2017** guidelines did not include recommendations on extracorporeal CO₂ removal.
2023 guidelines recommend against ECCO₂R in ARDS.

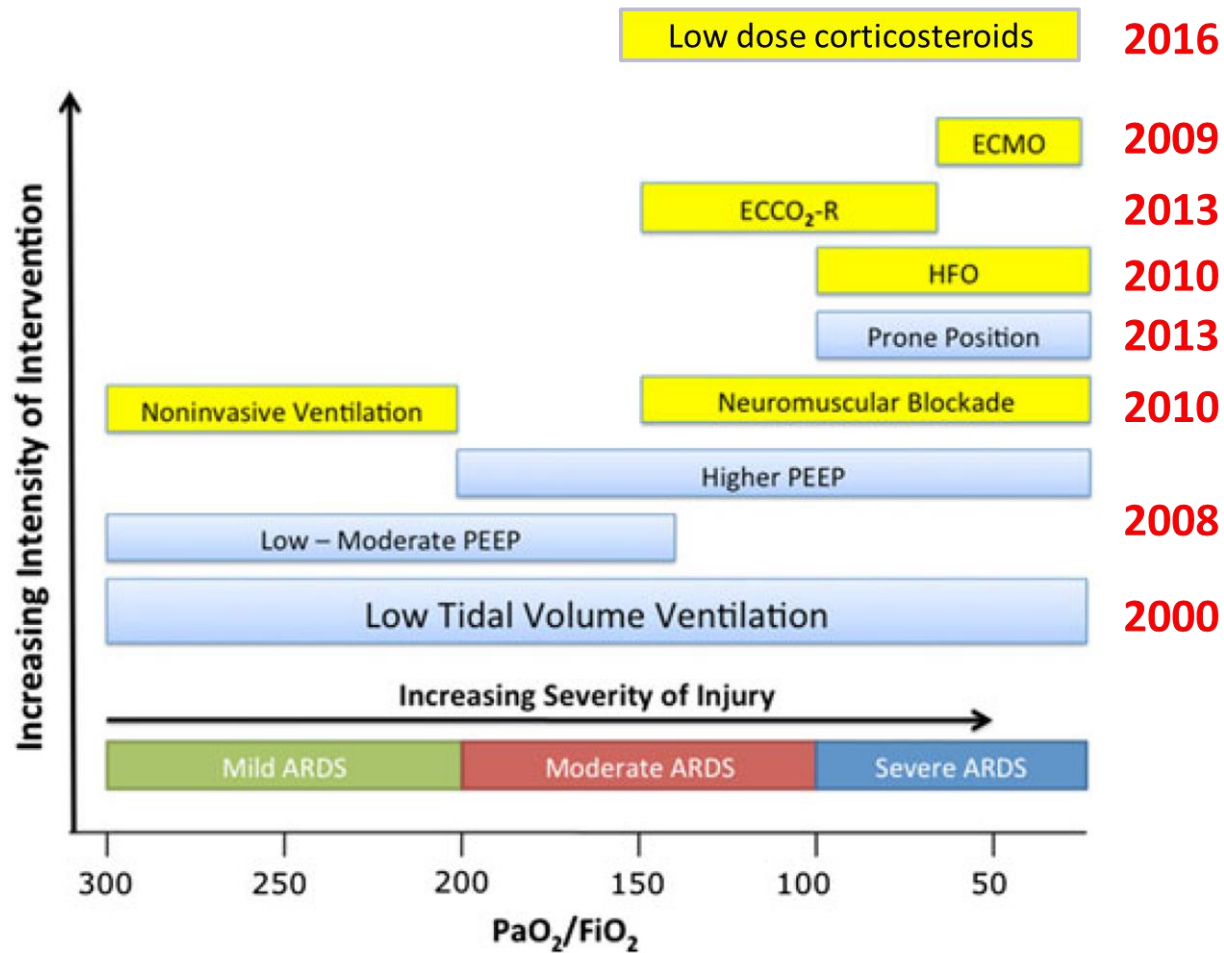


ARDS: acute respiratory distress syndrome; **COVID-19:** coronavirus disease 2019; **ECCO₂R:** Extracorporeal CO₂ Removal; **ECMO:** extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; **HFOV:** High-frequency oscillatory ventilation; **PEEP:** positive end-expiratory pressure; **RM:** recruitment maneuver

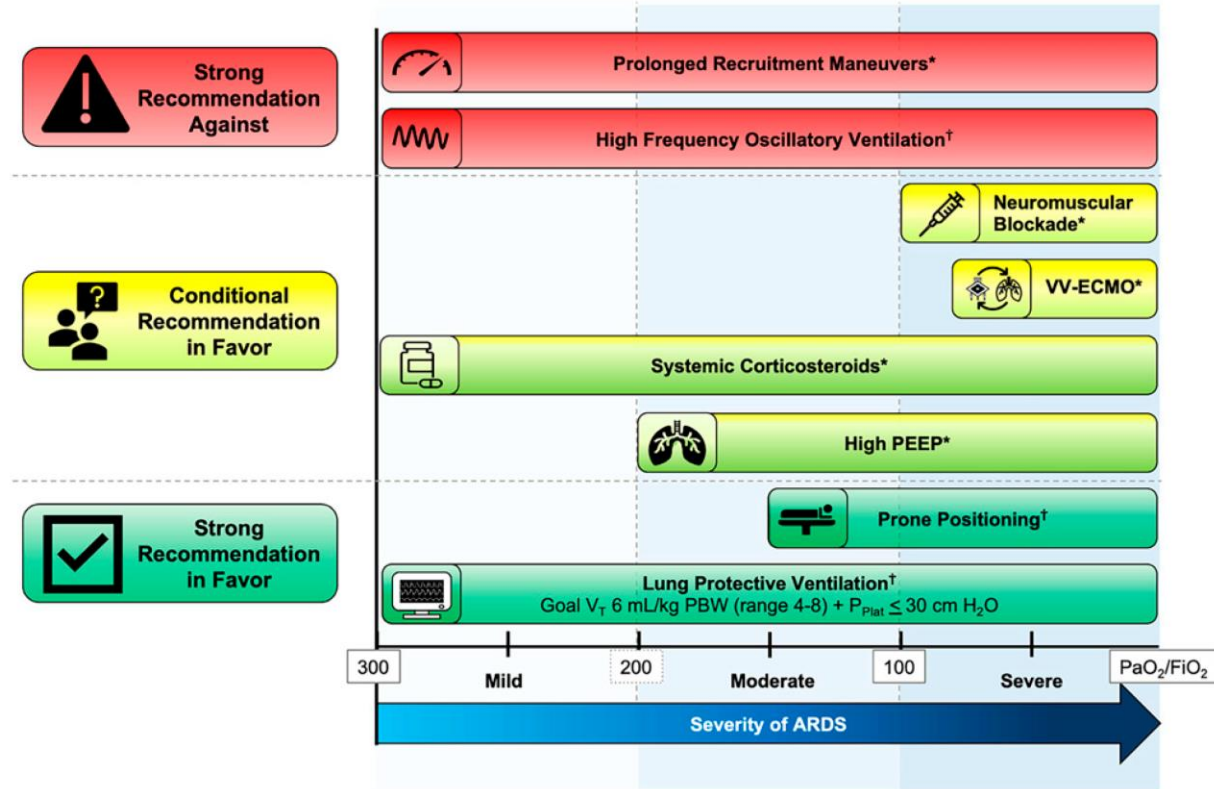
Phenotype, Sub-phenotype, and Endotype in ARDS (adapted from the ESICM 2023 ARDS guideline definitions) 可當作 personalized treatment 的參考

名稱	定義	重點	ARDS 例子
Phenotype	臨床上可觀察到的一組特徵，由基因與環境交互作用後呈現的外顯表現	看起來是什麼樣的病	ARDS 本身就是一種 phenotype：急性、瀰漫性、發炎性肺損傷，表現為低氧、雙側浸潤、肺順應性下降
Sub-phenotype	在同一 phenotype 內，可依一組可觀察、可測量、且可重現的特徵區分出的亞群	同一種 ARDS，其實不是同一種病人	Hyper-inflammatory vs hypo-inflammatory；focal vs diffuse morphology；recruitable vs non-recruitable lung
Endotype	具有不同功能性或病理生物機轉的 sub-phenotype，且理想上對特定治療有不同反應	不只長得不同，機轉也不同	例如 hyper-inflammatory ARDS 若被證實有特定發炎路徑活化，且對 PEEP、fluid strategy 或抗發炎治療反應不同，才更接近真正的 endotype

指引建議 ARDS treatment: 2012 vs. 2024



Intensive Care Med 2012; 38:1573-82



Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 209, Iss 1, pp 24–36, Jan 1, 2024

今天單純討論ARDS呼吸器治療策略

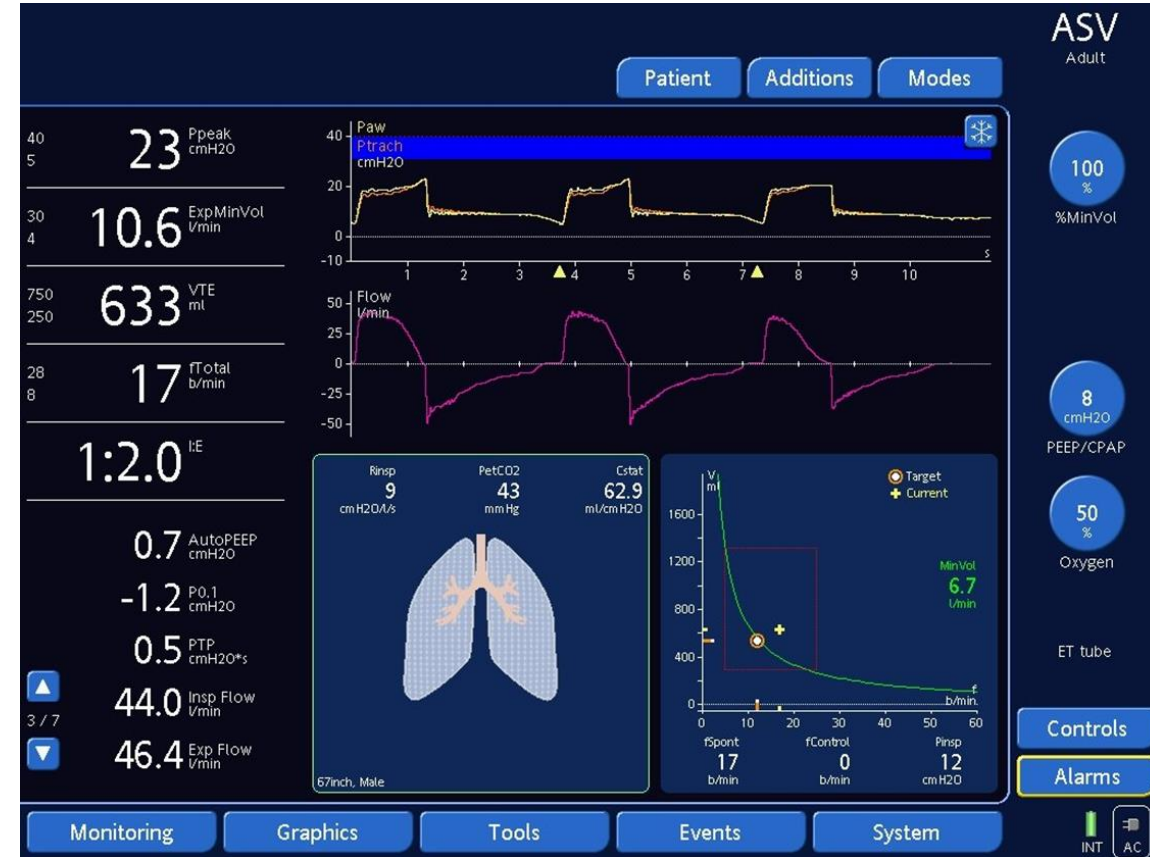
- Oxygenation
 - ✓ FiO₂
 - ✓ PEEP
- Ventilation
 - ✓ Tidal volume
 - ✓ Respiratory rate
 - ✓ Minute ventilation
- Monitoring and alarm system



Lung-protective ventilation

ARDS ventilatory strategy: 一般性目標

- Keep pH > 7.3
 - PaCO₂ < 50 mmHg
 - PaO₂ > 55 mmHg, SpO₂ > 88%
- To decrease work of breathing
- Lung protection
 - Keep plateau pressure < 30 cmH₂O
 - Keep driving pressure ≤ 14 cmH₂O



Better Survival in Lower Tidal Volume (6 vs 12 ml/kg)

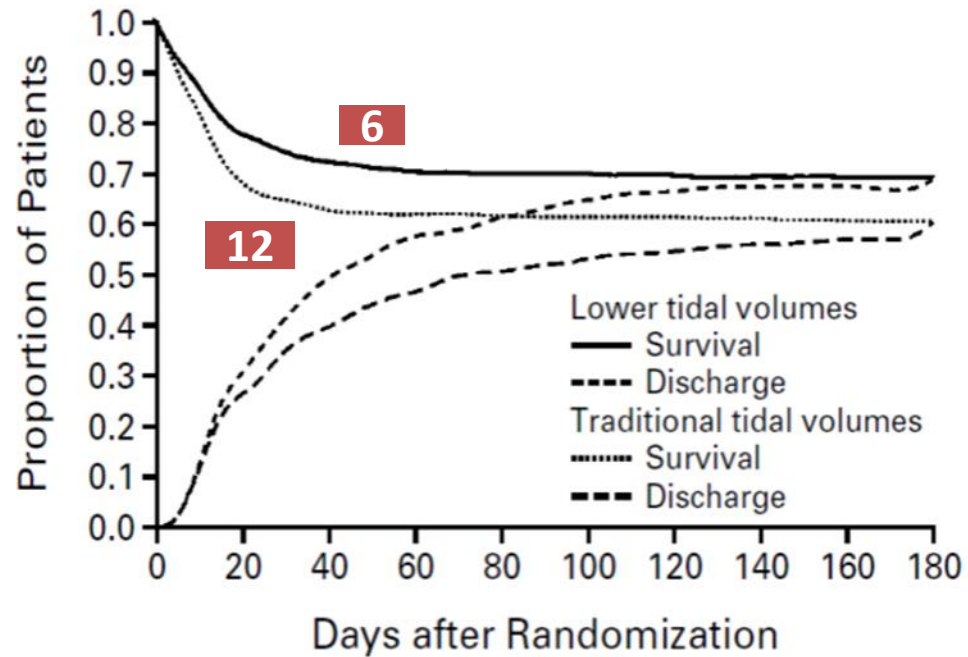


TABLE 4. MAIN OUTCOME VARIABLES.*

VARIABLE	6 GROUP RECEIVING LOWER TIDAL VOLUMES	12 GROUP RECEIVING TRADITIONAL TIDAL VOLUMES	P VALUE
Death before discharge home and breathing without assistance (%)	31.0	39.8	0.007
Breathing without assistance by day 28 (%)	65.7	55.0	<0.001
No. of ventilator-free days, days 1 to 28	12±11	10±11	0.007
Barotrauma, days 1 to 28 (%)	10	11	0.43
No. of days without failure of nonpulmonary organs or systems, days 1 to 28	15±11	12±11	0.006

LTV Mortality Meta-analysis in 2017 and 2019

Favors LTV

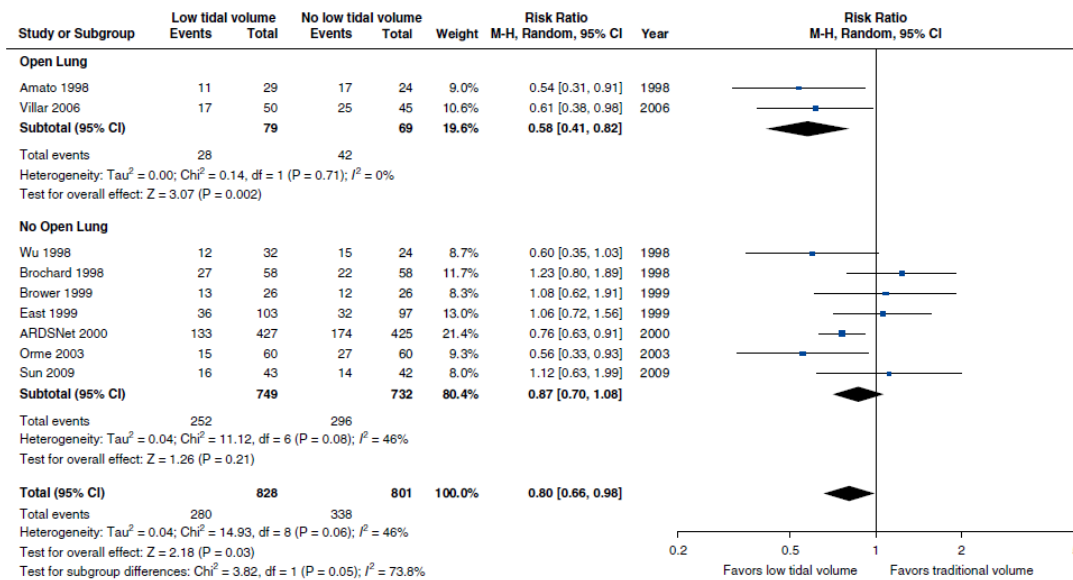


Figure 2. Analysis of mortality for low tidal volume or pressure-limited ventilation versus control strategy. Study details: Amato 1998 (20), 28-day mortality; ARDSNet 2000 (29), hospital mortality; Brochard 1998 (33), 60-day mortality; Brower 1999 (34), hospital mortality; East 1999 (35), hospital mortality; Orme 2003 (36), hospital mortality; Sun 2009 (38), 28-day mortality; Villar 2006 (21), hospital mortality; and Wu 1998 (37), hospital mortality. CI = confidence interval; df = degrees of freedom; Events = n with mortality outcome; I² = heterogeneity statistic; M-H = Mantel-Haenszel method; Total = total N in each study arm.

Favors LTV

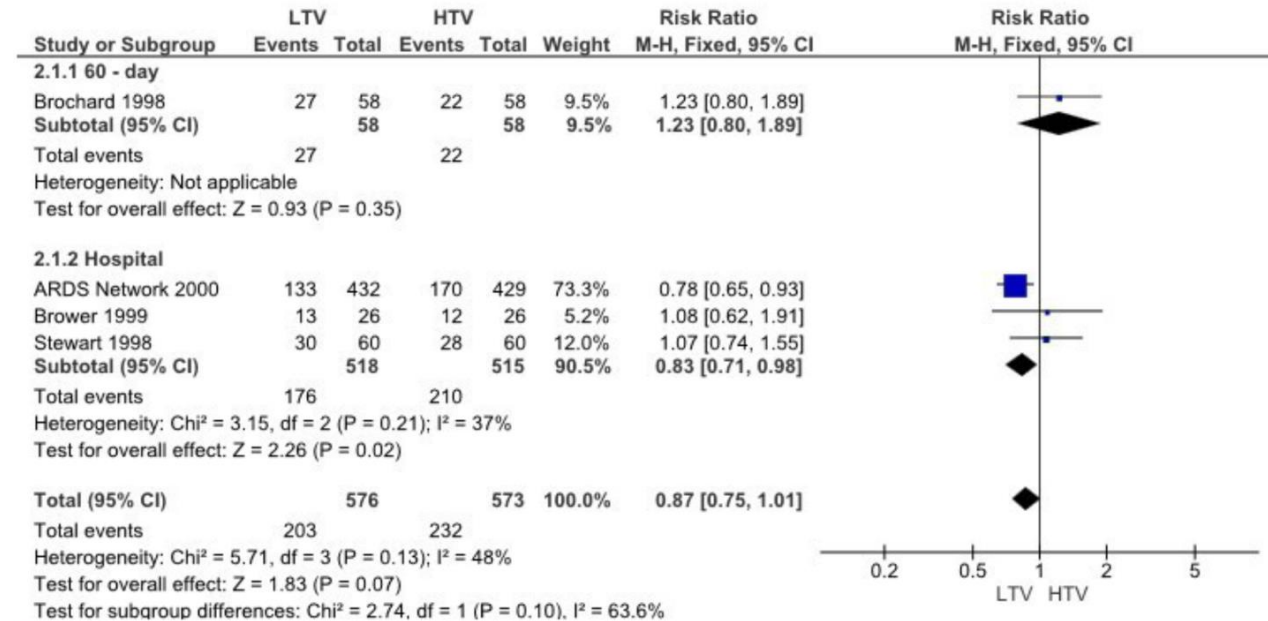


Figure 1 Sixty-day and hospital mortality comparing LTV and HTV mechanical ventilation in adult patients with ARDS. ARDS, acute respiratory distress syndrome; HTV, higher tidal volume; LTV, lower tidal volume.

ESICM 2023指引: LTV 死亡率證據統計上不顯著, 但仍是保護性通氣基石

Table 1 Summary of studies comparing low vs high tidal volume ventilation

	Vt (ml/kg)		Paw Limit (cmH ₂ O)		Notes
	Interventional Arm	Control Arm	Interventional Arm	Control Arm	
ARDS Net [99]	4–8 PBW	12 PBW	Pplat ≤ 30	Pplat ≤ 50	PP allowed – Explicit weaning protocol
Orme et al. [100]	4–8 PBW	10–15 PBW	Pplat < 40	Pplat < 70	Explicit sedation and weaning protocol

Vt Tidal Volume, Paw Airway Pressure, PBW Predicted Body Weight, ABW Adjusted Body Weight, PIP Peak airway pressure, Pplat Plateau airway pressure, ΔP Driving Pressure, RM Recruitment Manouever, PP Prone Positioning

Recommendation 5.1

We **recommend** the use of low tidal volume ventilation strategies (i.e., 4–8 ml/kg PBW), compared to larger tidal volumes (traditionally used to normalize blood gases), to reduce mortality in patients with ARDS not due to COVID-19.

Strong recommendation based on expert opinion despite lack of statistical significance; high level of evidence.

This recommendation applies also to ARDS from COVID-19.

Strong recommendation; moderate level of evidence for indirectness.

強建議使用LTV的理由不再是降低mortality, 而是基於生理學上的高保護性

ESICM ARDS guideline 2023

- Mortality: RR 0.96 95% CI 0.72-1.28
- Barotrauma: RR 0.8 95% CI 0.44-1.46
- Ventilator-free days: 2.25+ 95% CI -0.91-5.41

The primary analysis concerning mortality included three trials [95, 97, 99]

Ultra-low tidal volume ventilation for COVID-19-related ARDS

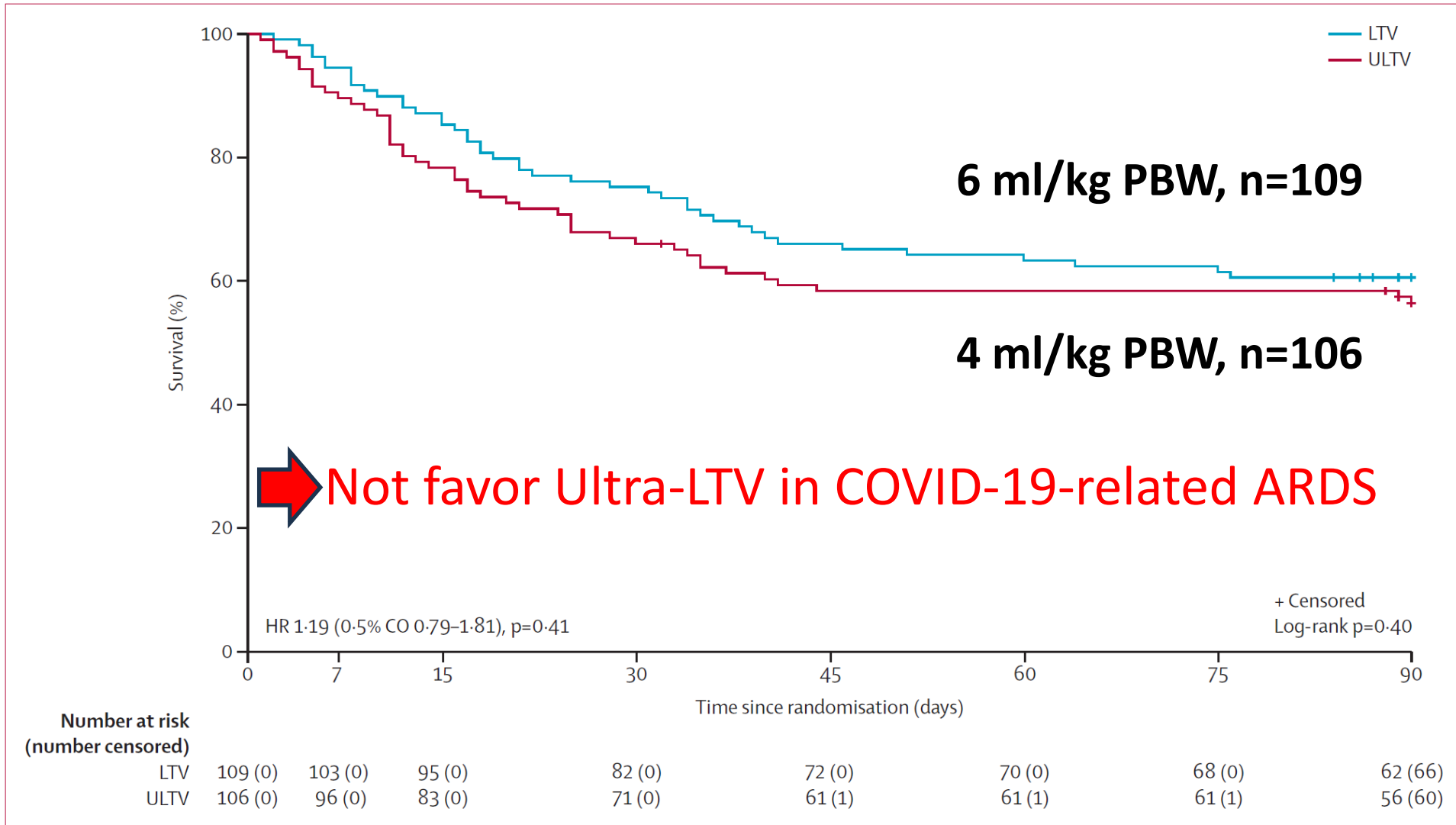
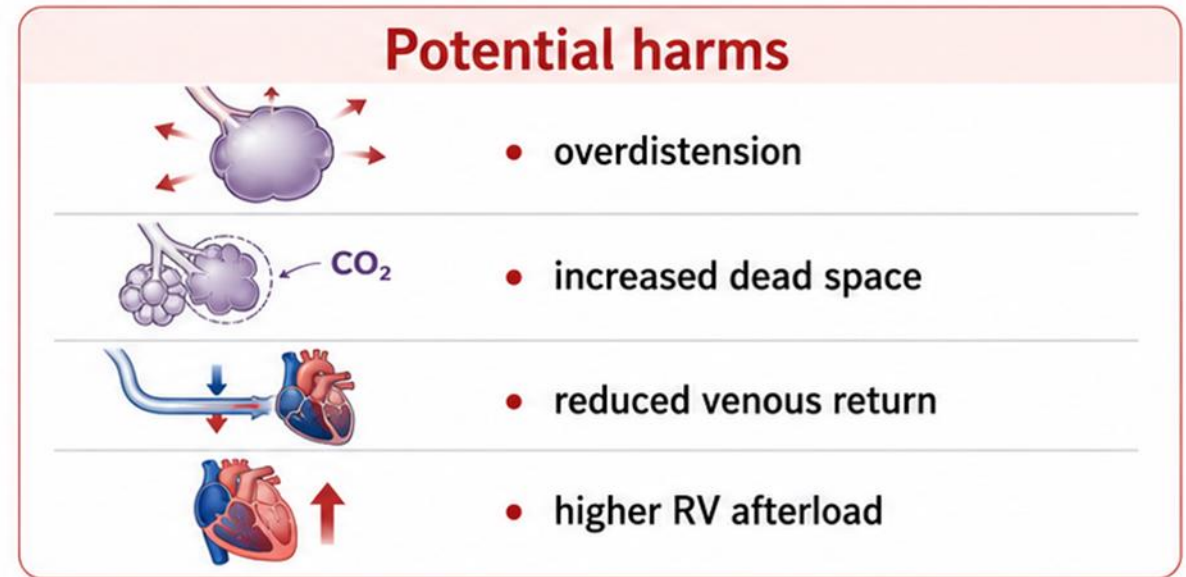
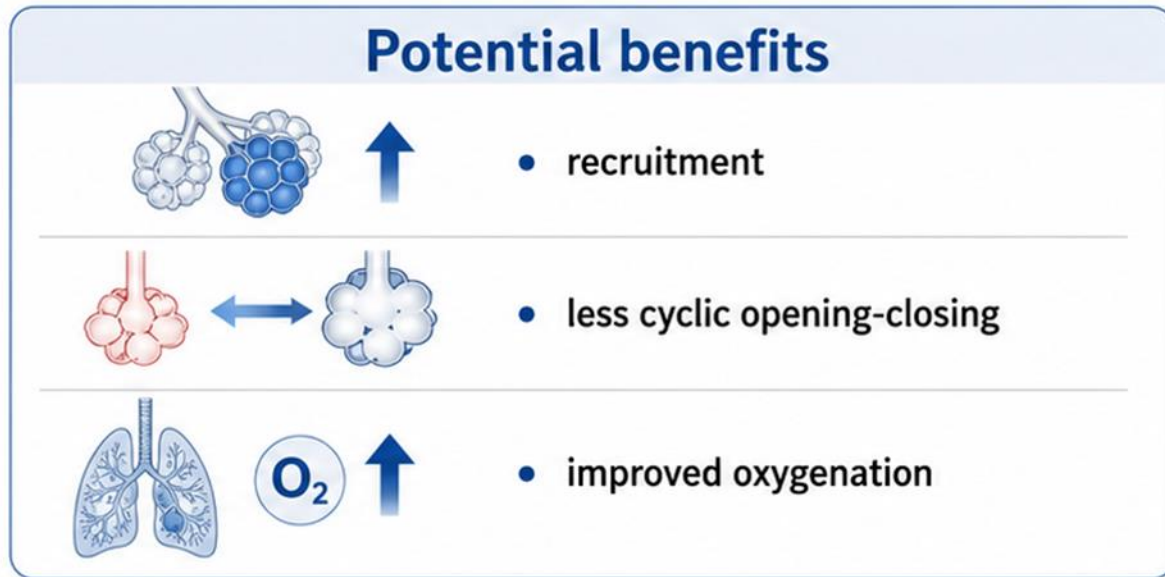


Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis until day 90 in all participants who were randomly assigned Day 0 denotes study inclusion. LTV=low V_T ventilation. ULTV=ultra-low V_T ventilation. V_T =tidal volume.

PEEP strategy:

- 1.Higher PEEP vs Lower PEEP
- 2.High PEEP + RM
- 3.PEEP titrated to Pplt 28-30

PEEP remains one of the hardest ARDS decisions



- The effect of the same PEEP level depends on **recruitability**, **chest wall mechanics**, and **hemodynamic reserve**
- The modern PEEP question is not '**how much oxygenation gain?**', but '**at what mechanical and circulatory cost?**'

Higher versus Lower Positive End-Expiratory Pressures
in Patients with the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

First 80 patients at higher PEEP
group, during the first four days
after randomization

**Recruitment maneuver CPAP 35-
40 cmH₂O x 30 secs**

The subsequent mean increase in
arterial oxygenation was small
and transient. Then D/C RM

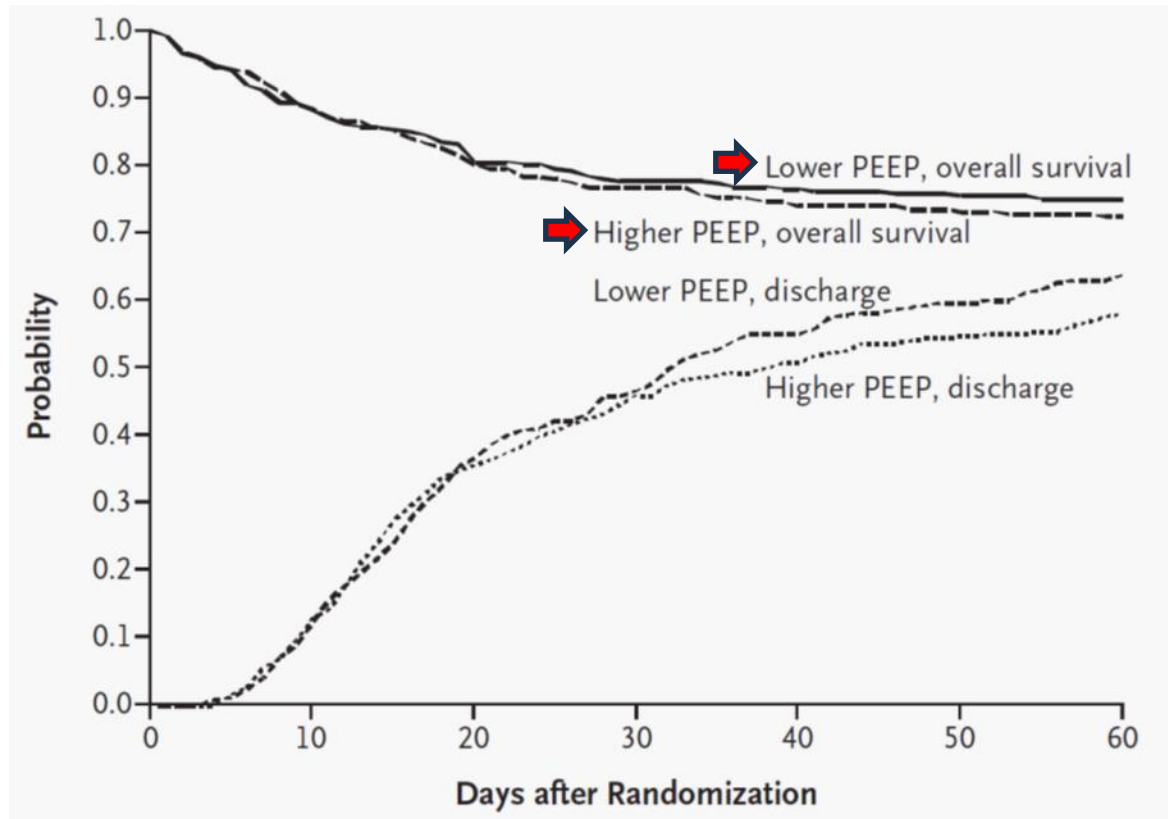
ALVEOLI trial, NEJM 2004 (1)

Higher PEEP vs. Lower PEEP

Table 1. Summary of Ventilator Procedures in the Lower- and Higher-PEEP Groups.*

Procedure	Value	
Ventilator mode	Volume assist/control	
Tidal-volume goal	6 ml/kg of predicted body weight	
Plateau-pressure goal	≤30 cm of water	
Ventilator rate and pH goal	6–35, adjusted to achieve arterial pH ≥7.30 if possible	
Inspiration:expiration time	1:1–1:3	
Oxygenation goal		
PaO ₂	55–80 mm Hg	
SpO ₂	88–95%	
Weaning	Weaning attempted by means of pressure support when level of arterial oxygenation acceptable with PEEP ≤8 cm of water and FiO ₂ ≤0.40	
Allowable combinations of PEEP and FiO ₂ †		
Lower-PEEP group		
FiO ₂	0.3	0.4 0.4 0.5 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.7 0.7 0.8 0.9 0.9 0.9 1.0
PEEP	5	5 8 8 10 10 10 12 14 14 16 18 18–24
Higher-PEEP group (before protocol changed to use higher levels of PEEP)		
FiO ₂	0.3	0.3 0.3 0.3 0.3 0.4 0.4 0.5 0.5 0.5–0.8 0.8 0.9 1.0
PEEP	5	8 10 12 14 14 16 16 18 20 22 22 22–24
Higher-PEEP group (after protocol changed to use higher levels of PEEP)		
FiO ₂	0.3	0.3 0.4 0.4 0.5 0.5 0.5–0.8 0.8 0.9 1.0
PEEP	12	14 14 16 16 18 20 22 22 22–24

ALVEOLI trial, NEJM 2004 (2): Higher PEEP vs. Lower PEEP



clinical outcomes are **similar whether lower or higher PEEP** levels are used

N Engl J Med. 2004 Jul 22;351(4):327-36.

Table 4. Main Outcome Variables.*

Outcome	Lower-PEEP Group	Higher-PEEP Group	P Value
Death before discharge home (%) †			
Unadjusted	24.9	27.5	0.48
Adjusted for differences in baseline covariates	27.5	25.1	0.47
Breathing without assistance by day 28 (%)	72.8	72.3	0.89
No. of ventilator-free days from day 1 to day 28 ‡	14.5±10.4	13.8±10.6	0.50
No. of days not spent in intensive care unit from day 1 to day 28	12.2±10.4	12.3±10.3	0.83
Barotrauma (%) §	10	11	0.51
No. of days without failure of circulatory, coagulation, hepatic, and renal organs from day 1 to day 28	16±11	16±11	0.82

LOVS trial, JAMA 2008 (1) : High PEEP + RM

Ventilation Strategy Using Low Tidal Volumes, Recruitment Maneuvers, and High Positive End-Expiratory Pressure for Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

A Randomized Controlled Trial

RM CPAP 40 cmH₂O x 40 secs QID until FiO₂ ≤ 40%

把肺打開、再用高PEEP維持、允許Ppl_t到40cmH₂O

Table 1. Protocol Components

Component Variables	Control Ventilation Strategy	Lung Open Ventilation Strategy
Ventilator mode	Volume-assist control	Pressure control
Tidal volume target, mL/kg predicted body weight	6	6
Tidal volume range, mL/kg predicted body weight	4-8	4-8
Plateau airway pressure, cm H ₂ O	≤30	≤40
Positive end-expiratory pressure, cm H ₂ O	See Table 2	See Table 2
Partial pressure of oxygen, arterial, mm Hg	55-80	55-80
Oxygen saturation as measured by pulse oximetry, %	88-93	88-93
pH	≥7.30	≥7.30
Ventilator rate, breaths/min	≤35	≤35
Inspiration:expiration time	1:1-1:3	1:1-1:3
Recruitment maneuvers	Not permitted	After ventilator disconnects

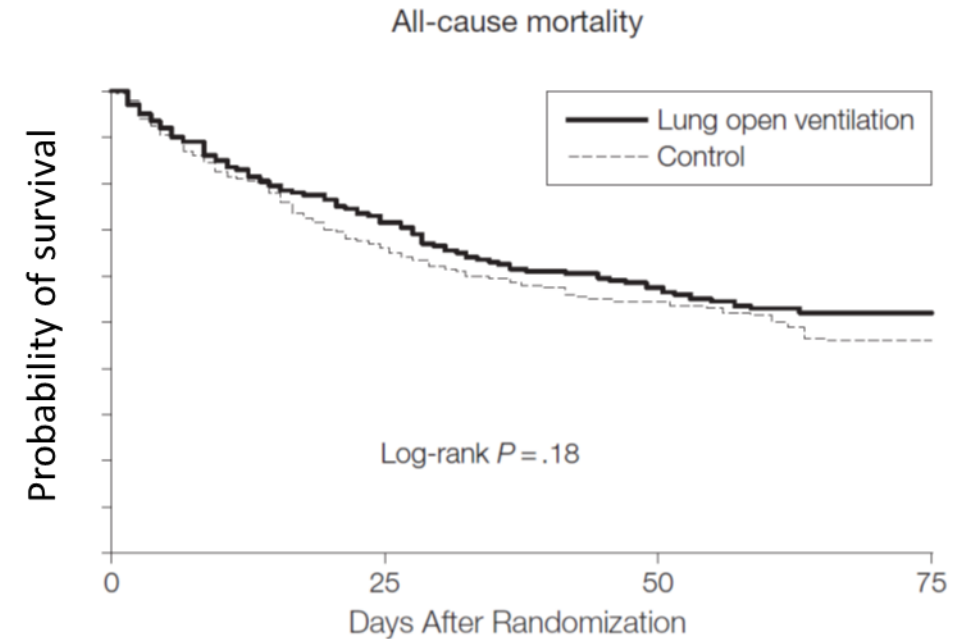
Table 2. Allowable PEEP Ranges at Specified Levels of FiO₂^a

	Fraction of Inspired Oxygen (FiO ₂)							
	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Control PEEP ranges, cm H ₂ O	5	5-8	8-10	10	10-14	14	14-18	18-24
Lung open ventilation PEEP ranges, cm H ₂ O								
Before protocol change	5-10	10-14	14-20	20	20	20	20	20-24
After protocol change	5-10	10-18	18-20	20	20	20-22	22	22-24

LOVS trial, JAMA 2008 (2)

Table 6. Outcomes^a

Outcomes	No. (%)		Relative Risk (95% Confidence Interval)	P Value
	Lung Open Ventilation (n = 475)	Control Ventilation (n = 508)		
Death in hospital	173 (36.4)	205 (40.4)	0.90 (0.77-1.05)	.19
Death in intensive care unit	145 (30.5)	178 (35.0)	0.87 (0.73-1.04)	.13
Death during mechanical ventilation	136 (28.6)	168 (33.1)	0.87 (0.72-1.04)	.13
Death during first 28 d	135 (28.4)	164 (32.3)	0.88 (0.73-1.07)	.20
Barotrauma ^b	53 (11.2)	47 (9.1)	1.21 (0.83-1.75)	.33
Refractory hypoxemia	22 (4.6)	52 (10.2)	0.54 (0.34-0.86)	.01
Death with refractory hypoxemia	20 (4.2)	45 (8.9)	0.56 (0.34-0.93)	.03
Refractory acidosis	29 (6.1)	42 (8.3)	0.81 (0.51-1.31)	.39
Death with refractory acidosis	27 (5.7)	38 (7.5)	0.85 (0.51-1.40)	.52
Refractory barotrauma	14 (3.0)	12 (2.4)	1.10 (0.54-2.26)	.80
Death with refractory barotrauma	8 (1.7)	8 (1.6)	1.00 (0.41-2.40)	.99
Eligible use of rescue therapies ^c	24 (5.1)	47 (9.3)	0.61 (0.38-0.99)	.045
Total use of rescue therapies ^c	37 (7.8)	61 (12.0)	0.68 (0.46-1.00)	.05
Days of mechanical ventilation ^d	10 (6-17)	10 (6-16)		.92
Days of intensive care ^d	13 (8-23)	13 (9-23)		.98
Days of hospitalization ^d	28 (17-48)	29 (16-51)		.96



no significant difference in all-cause hospital mortality or barotrauma compared with an established low-tidal-volume protocolized ventilation strategy.

EXPRESS trial, JAMA 2008: PEEP titrated to Pplt 28-30

Positive End-Expiratory Pressure Setting in Adults With Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

A Randomized Controlled Trial

**PEEP as high as possible without
increasing the maximum
inspiratory plateau pressure > 28-
30 cm H₂O**

在限制Pplt下盡量提高 PEEP

Table 1. Ventilation Characteristics in the Minimal Distension and Increased Recruitment Groups

Ventilator Mode	Volume-Assist Control
Tidal volume goal	6 mL/kg of predicted body weight ^a
Plateau pressure limit	≤30 cm H ₂ O
Ventilation rate and pH goals	≤35; adjusted for a pH between 7.30 and 7.45
Oxygenation goals	
PaO ₂	55-80 mm Hg
SpO ₂	88%-95%
PEEP ^b	
Minimal distension group ^c	Total PEEP between 5 and 9 cm H ₂ O
Increased recruitment group ^d	Plateau pressure between 28 and 30 cm H ₂ O
Recruitment maneuvers	Allowed but not recommended
Adjunctive therapies (prone position or inhaled nitric oxide or almitrine bismesylate)	Allowed when the oxygenation goal was not met despite FiO ₂ ≥0.8
PEEP weaning test	
In patients with PaO ₂ :FiO ₂ >150 mm Hg with FiO ₂ ≤0.6 daily from day 4 onward; FiO ₂ of 0.5 and PEEP of 5 cm H ₂ O for 20-30 min	Successful if PaO ₂ ≥100 mm Hg; subsequent ventilation with PEEP of 5 cm H ₂ O, tidal volume <10 mL/kg predicted body weight, and plateau pressure <30 cm H ₂ O

EXPRESS trial, JAMA 2008

All Patients

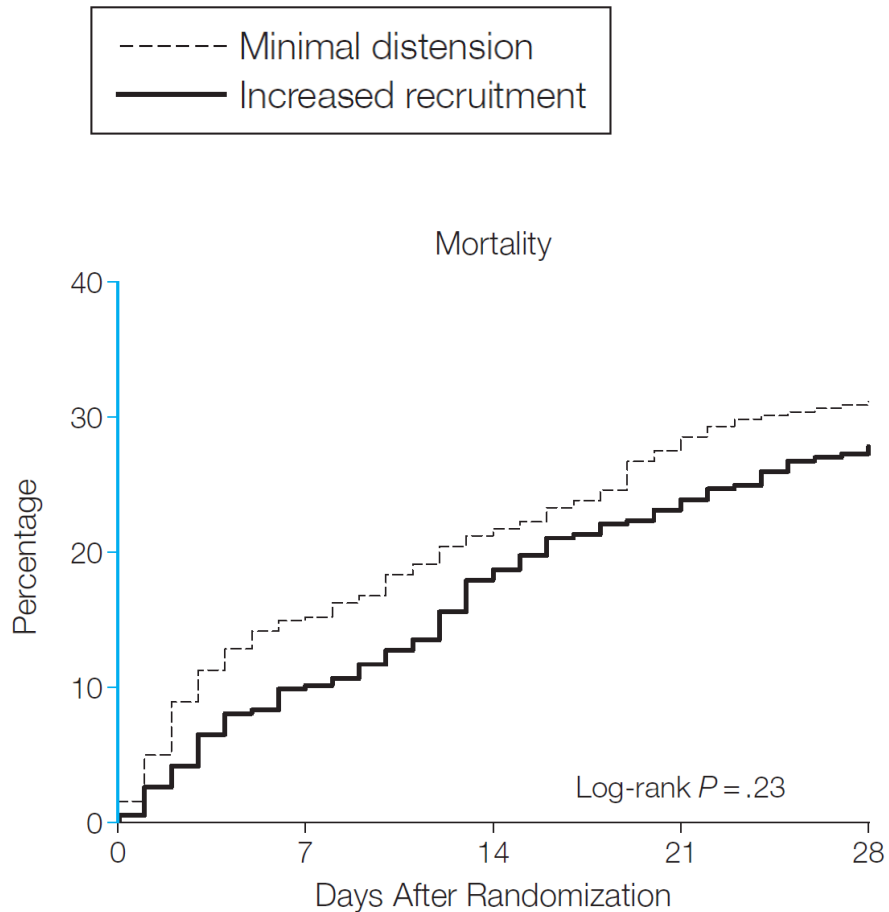


Table 4. Main Outcome Variables

Outcome	Minimal Distension (n = 382)	Increased Recruitment (n = 385)	P Value
	No. (%)		
Death in the first 28 d ^a	119 (31.2)	107 (27.8)	.31
Death before hospital discharge	149 (39.0)	136 (35.4)	.30
Death in the first 60 d	151 (39.5)	138 (35.9)	.31
Pneumothorax between day 1 and day 28 ^b	22 (5.8)	26 (6.8)	.57
	Median (IQR)		
No. of days between day 1 and day 28			
Ventilator-free ^c	3 (0-17)	7 (0-19)	.04
Organ failure-free ^d	2 (0-16)	6 (0-18)	.04
Cardiovascular failure-free ^d	21 (4-26)	23 (10-26)	.09
Renal failure-free ^d	27.5 (8.0-28.0)	28.0 (11.0-28.0)	.23

A strategy for setting PEEP aimed at **increasing alveolar recruitment while limiting hyperinflation did not significantly reduce mortality.**

LOVS vs. EXPRESS

	LOVS		EXPRESS
面向			
RM	intervention 的一部分		allowed but not recommended
PEEP 調整	PEEP/FiO2 table		plateau pressure-guided
High PEEP 哲學	open lung + prevent collapse		raise PEEP until Pplat 28–30
Plateau pressure 上限	experimental arm 可到 40		目標 28–30，超過 32 要處理
Control group	ARDSNet-like low VT + conventional PEEP		minimal distension : total PEEP 5–9
	把肺打開、再用高PEEP維持、允許Pplt到40cmH2O		在限制Pplt下盡量提高 PEEP

JAMA 2010: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Table 1. Characteristics of Included Trials

Characteristic	Trial		
	ALVEOLI, ⁸ 2004	LOVS, ⁹ 2008	EXPRESS, ¹⁰ 2008
Inclusion criteria	Acute lung injury with PaO ₂ :FiO ₂ ≤300 ^a	Acute lung injury with PaO ₂ :FiO ₂ ≤250 ^a	Acute lung injury with PaO ₂ :FiO ₂ ≤300 ^a
Recruitment period	1999-2002	2000-2006	2002-2005
Recruiting hospitals (country)	23 (United States)	30 (Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia)	37 (France)
Patients randomized to higher vs lower PEEP	276 vs 273	476 vs 509 ^b	385 vs 383 ^c
Validity			
Concealed allocation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Follow-up for primary outcome, %	100	100	100
Blinded data analysis	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stopped early	Stopped for perceived futility	No	Stopped for perceived futility
Experimental intervention	Higher PEEP according to FiO ₂ chart, recruitment maneuvers for first 80 patients	Higher PEEP according to FiO ₂ chart, required plateau pressures ≤40 cm H ₂ O, recruitment maneuvers	PEEP as high as possible without increasing the maximum inspiratory plateau pressure >28-30 cm H ₂ O
Control intervention	Conventional PEEP according to FiO ₂ chart, required plateau pressures ≤30 cm H ₂ O, no recruitment maneuvers	Conventional PEEP according to FiO ₂ chart, required plateau pressures ≤30 cm H ₂ O, no recruitment maneuvers	Conventional PEEP (5-9 cm H ₂ O) to meet oxygenation goals
Ventilator procedures	Target tidal volumes of 6 mL/kg of predicted body weight; plateau pressures ≤30 cm H ₂ O (with exception as above); respiratory rate ≤35/min, adjusted to achieve arterial pH 7.30-7.45; ventilator mode: volume-assist control (except higher PEEP group in LOVS required pressure control); oxygenation goals: PaO ₂ 55-80 mm Hg and SpO ₂ 88%-95%; standardized weaning)		

Abbreviations: ALVEOLI, Assessment of Low Tidal Volume and Elevated End-Expiratory Pressure to Obviate Lung Injury; EXPRESS, Expiratory Pressure Study; FiO₂, fraction of inspired oxygen; LOVS, Lung Open Ventilation to Decrease Mortality in the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome; PEEP, positive end-expiratory pressure; SpO₂, oxygen saturation.

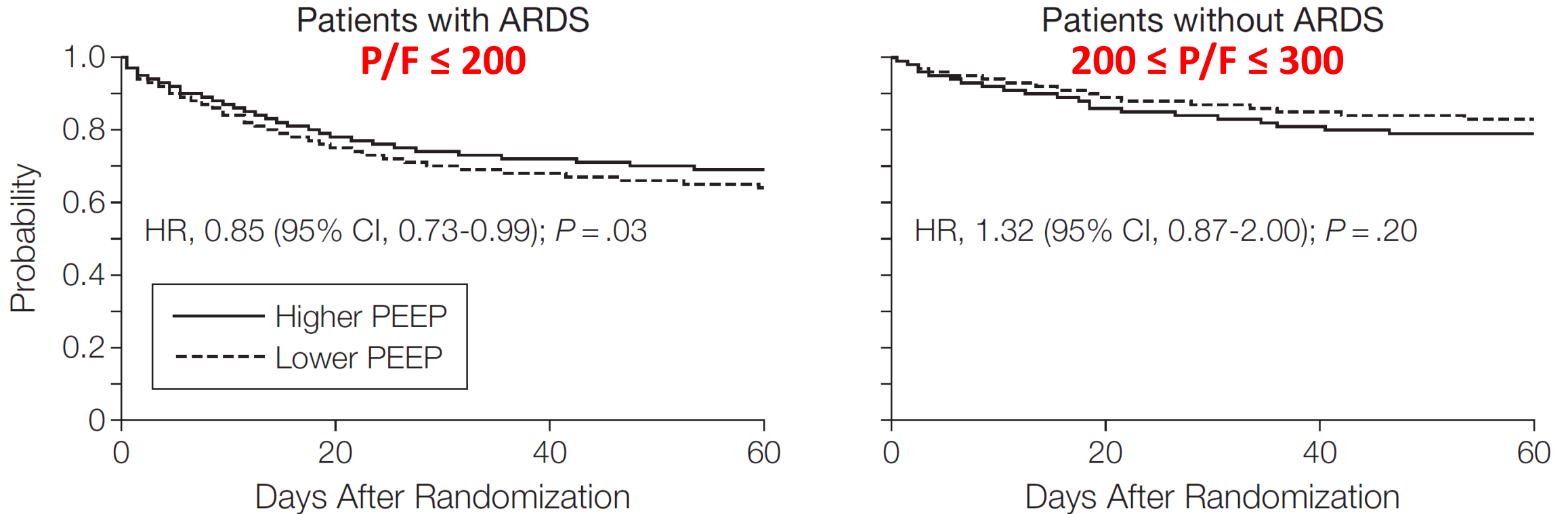
^aAcute lung injury defined according to the American-European Consensus Conference.¹²

^bIncludes 2 patients for whom consent was withdrawn prior to protocol initiation, without patient, family, and caregivers being aware of group assignment (ie, 983 patients analyzed).

^cIncludes 1 patient for whom consent was withdrawn prior to protocol initiation, without patient, family, and caregiver awareness of assignment (ie, 767 patients included in the analysis).

AECC: ARDS P/F \leq 200、ALI P/F \leq 300

In-hospital time to death



Treatment with higher vs lower levels of PEEP was **not associated with improved hospital survival**.
However, higher levels were associated **with improved survival among the subgroup of patients with ARDS**.

關於PEEP，兩份指引略有不同



Recommendation 6.1

We are **unable to make a recommendation** for or against routine PEEP titration with a higher PEEP/FiO₂ strategy versus a lower PEEP/FiO₂ strategy to reduce mortality in patients with ARDS. *No recommendation; high level of evidence of no effect.*

This statement applies also to ARDS from COVID-19. *No recommendation; moderate level of evidence of no effect for indirectness.*

Recommendation 6.3

We **recommend against** use of prolonged high-pressure recruitment maneuvers (defined as airway pressure maintained ≥ 35 cmH₂O for at least one minute) to reduce mortality of patients with ARDS. *Strong recommendation; moderate level of evidence against.*

This recommendation applies also to ARDS from COVID-19. *Strong recommendation; low level of evidence against for indirectness.*

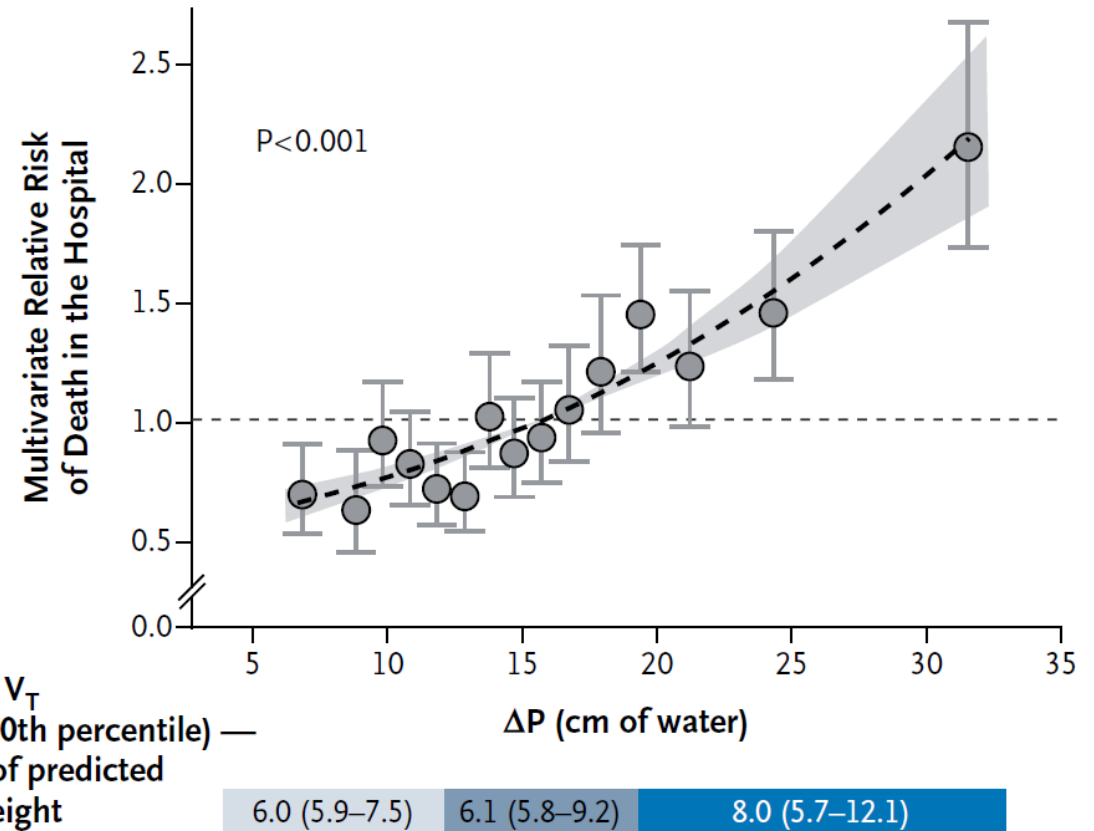
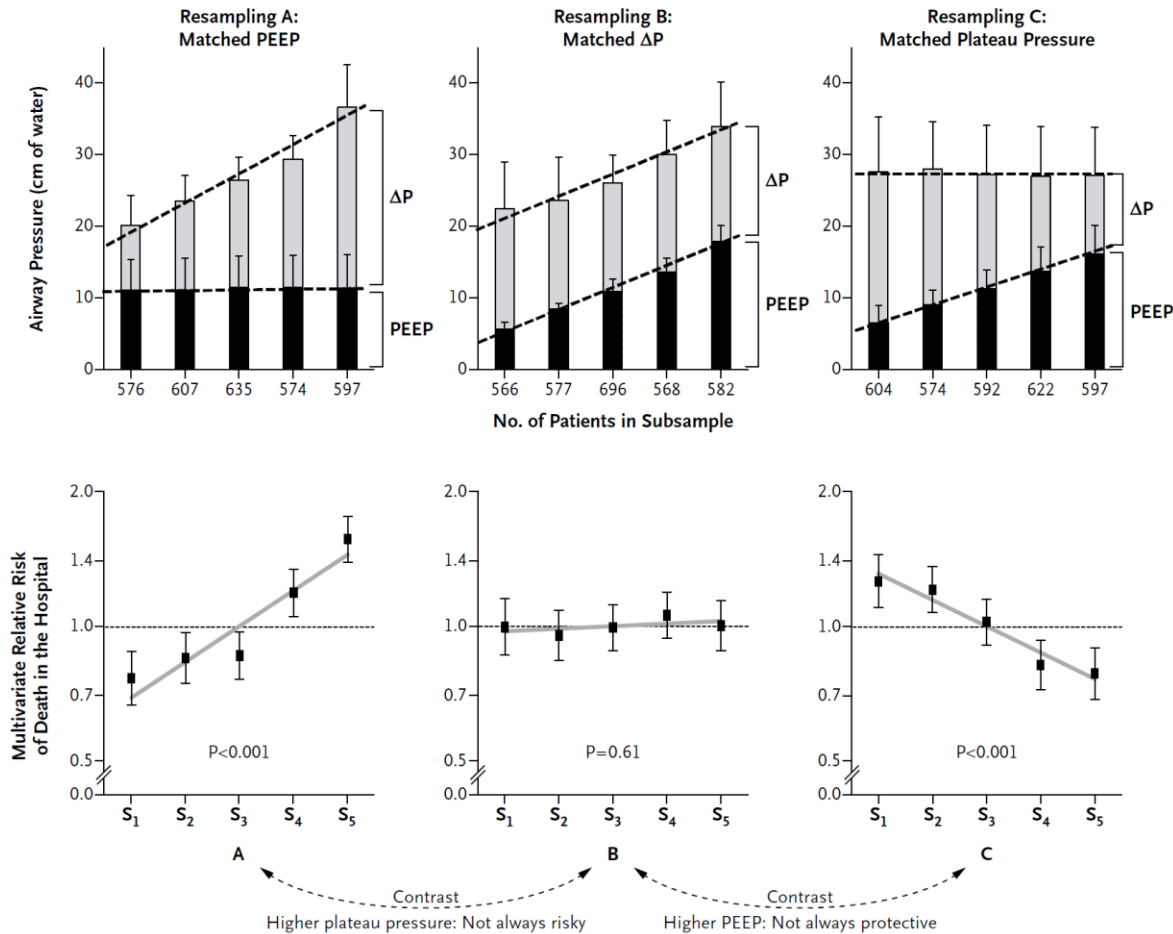
Question 4: Should Patients with ARDS Receive Higher Compared with Lower PEEP, with or without LRMs?
Recommendation. We suggest using higher PEEP without LRMs rather than lower PEEP in patients with moderate to severe ARDS (conditional recommendation, low-moderate certainty). We recommend against using prolonged (PEEP ≥ 35 cm H₂O for >60 s) LRMs in patients with moderate to severe ARDS (strong recommendation, moderate certainty).

Driving pressure and Optimal PEEP

Driving Pressure and Survival, NEJM 2015

Driving pressure 應被視為「可操作的監測指標」
而不是單純治療目標

3562 ARDS patients
In 9 RCTs



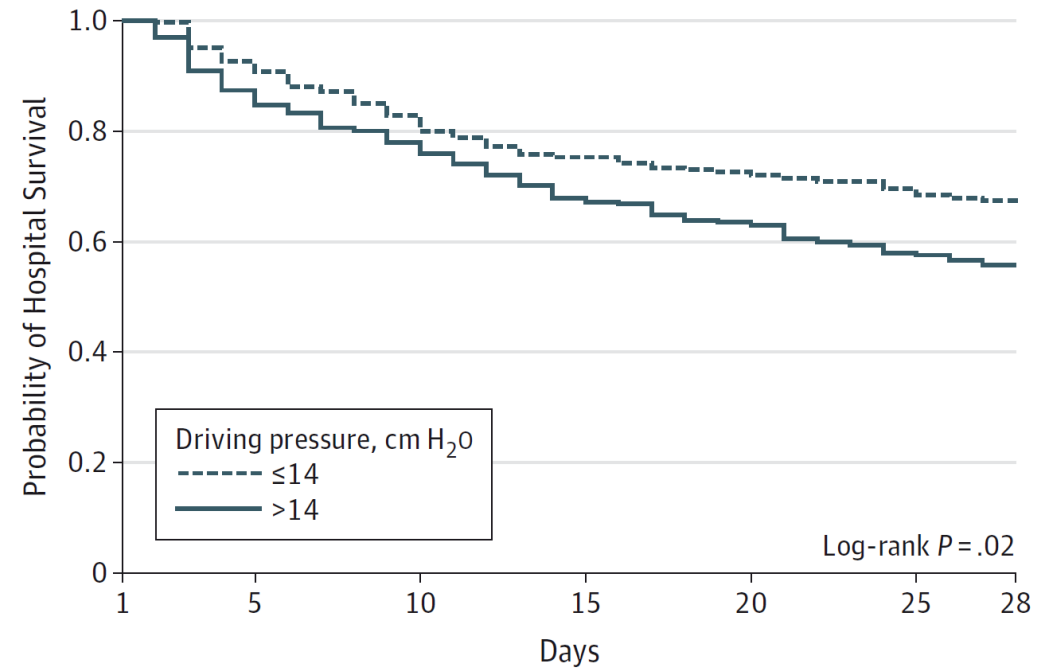
Driving pressure ≤ 14 cm H₂O的由來

JAMA | Original Investigation | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

Epidemiology, Patterns of Care, and Mortality for Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome in Intensive Care Units in 50 Countries

Patients with a driving pressure of greater than 14 cm H₂O on day 1 of ARDS criteria had a higher mortality.

c Probability of hospital survival by driving pressure



Individualized PEEP Setting in ARDS, Pintado et al. in 2013

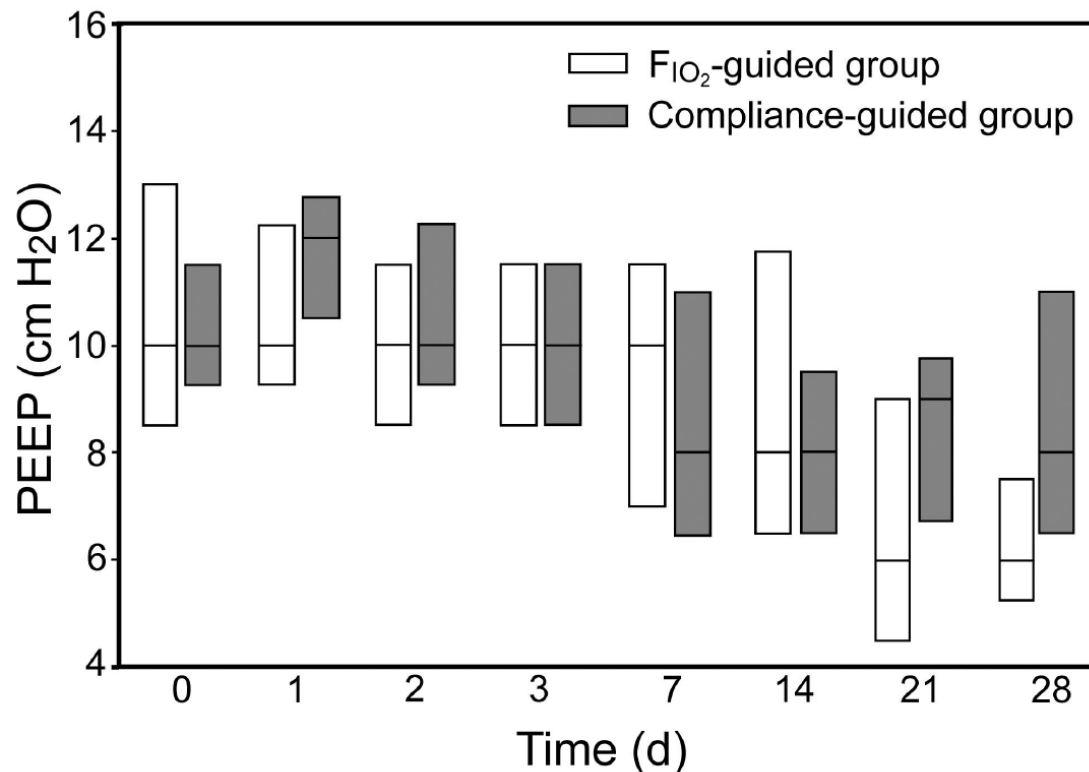


Fig. 2. PEEP in the first 28 days.

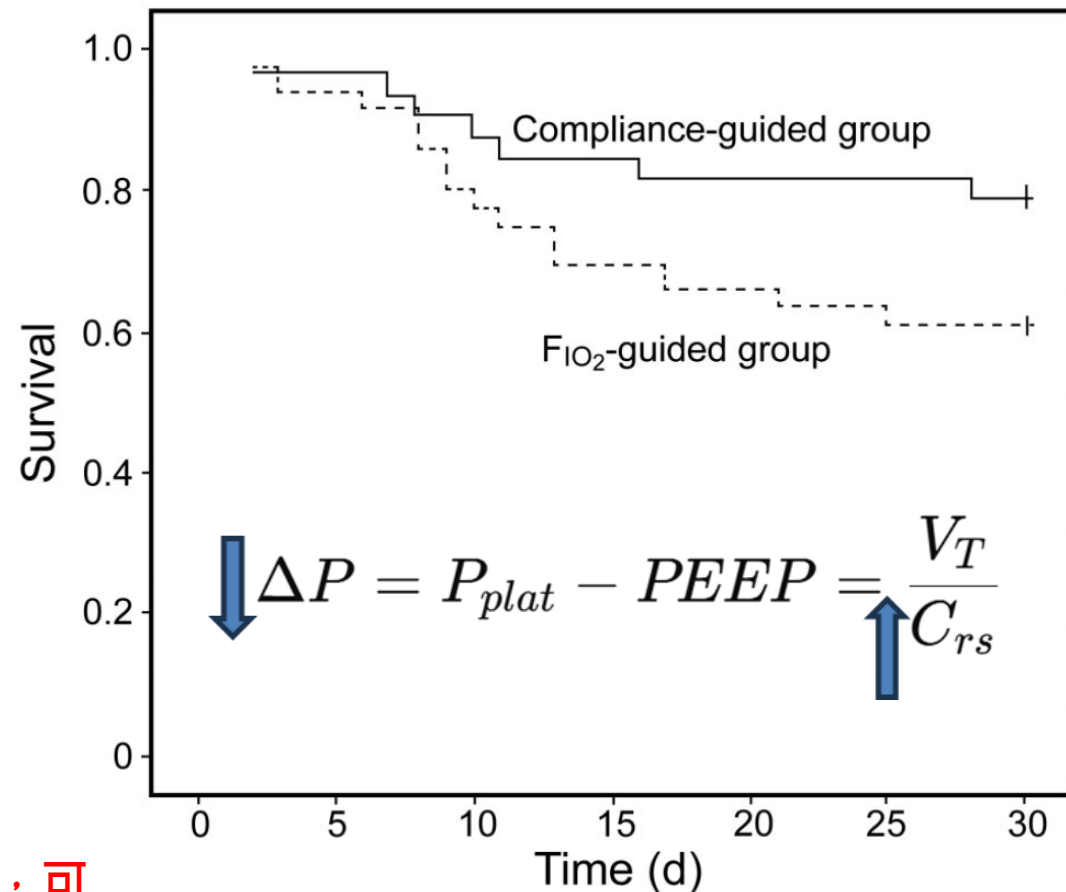


Fig. 4. Kaplan-Meier curves for survival.

Respir Care. 2013 Sep;58(9):1416-23.

- 單中心
- 樣本數只有 70 人
- pilot study 性質
- 不足以證明 mortality benefit
- compliance 是全肺平均值，可能掩蓋區域性 overdistension 與 dependent lung recruitment 的差異

Transpulmonary pressure-guided PEEP

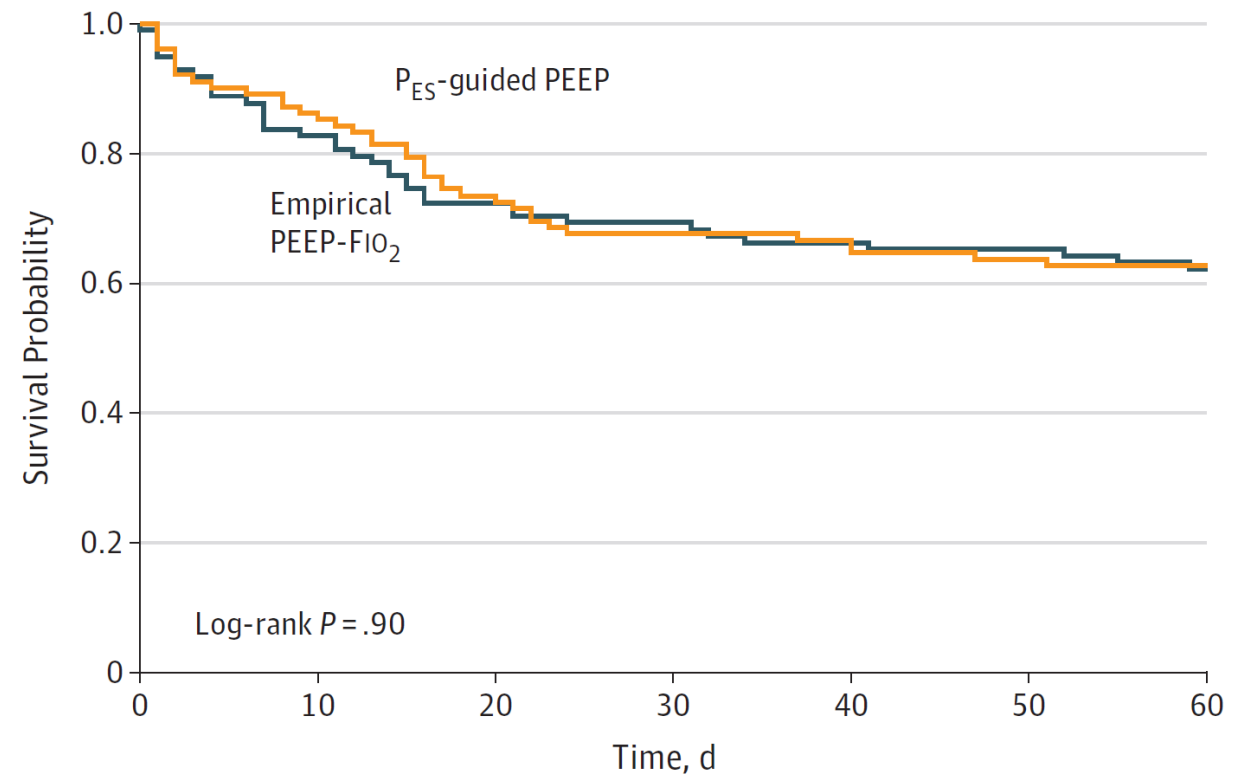
JAMA | Original Investigation | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

Effect of Titrating Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) With an Esophageal Pressure-Guided Strategy vs an Empirical High PEEP-FIO₂ Strategy on Death and Days Free From Mechanical Ventilation Among Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
A Randomized Clinical Trial

Among patients with moderate to severe ARDS, PES-guided PEEP, compared with empirical high PEEP-FIO₂, resulted in **no significant difference in death and days free from mechanical ventilation.**

JAMA. 2019;321(9):846-857.

Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier Survival Analysis Through Day 60



Recruitment maneuver and recruitability

Effect of Lung Recruitment and Titrated Positive End-Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) vs Low PEEP on Mortality in Patients With Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

A Randomized Clinical Trial

ART trial, JAMA 2017

Multicenter, 120 ICUs, 9 countries, 1013 pts, P/F 117-119, 66% septic shock

先用力打開肺

Steps for Maximum Alveolar Recruitment Maneuver:

Step 1

- Start with PEEP of 25cmH₂O
 - Delta pressure above PEEP of 15cmH₂O
- Peak pressure of 40cmH₂O

Keep it for 1 minute (15 respiratory cycles)

Step 2

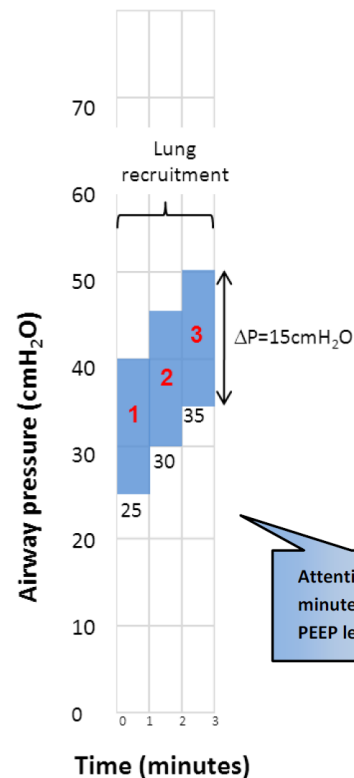
- Increase PEEP to 30cmH₂O
 - Delta pressure above PEEP of 15cmH₂O
- Peak pressure of 45cmH₂O

Keep it for 1 minute (15 respiratory cycles)

Step 3

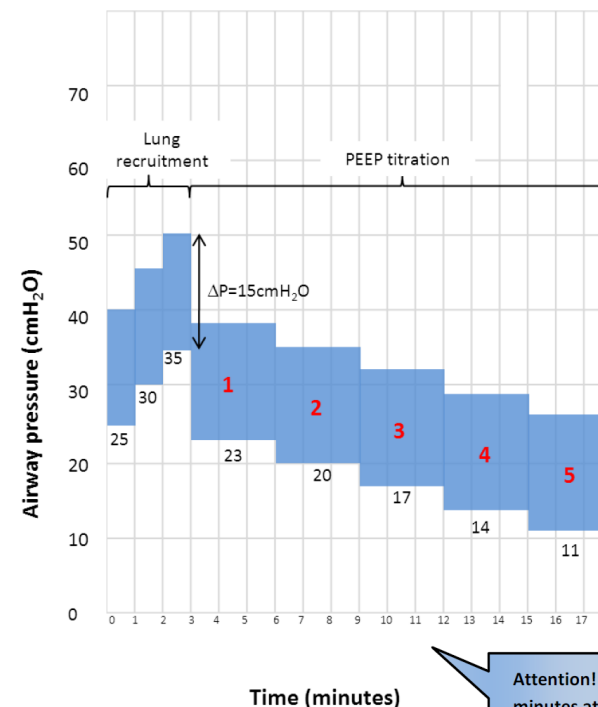
- Increase PEEP to 35cmH₂O
 - Delta pressure above PEEP of 15cmH₂O
- Peak pressure of 50cmH₂O

Keep it for 1 minute (15 respiratory cycles)



找出最大compliance

Steps for PEEP Titration:



Step 1: PEEP of 23 cmH₂O
(keeping other parameters)
After 3 minutes, calculate compliance

Step 2: PEEP of 20 cmH₂O
(keeping other parameters)
After 3 minutes, calculate compliance

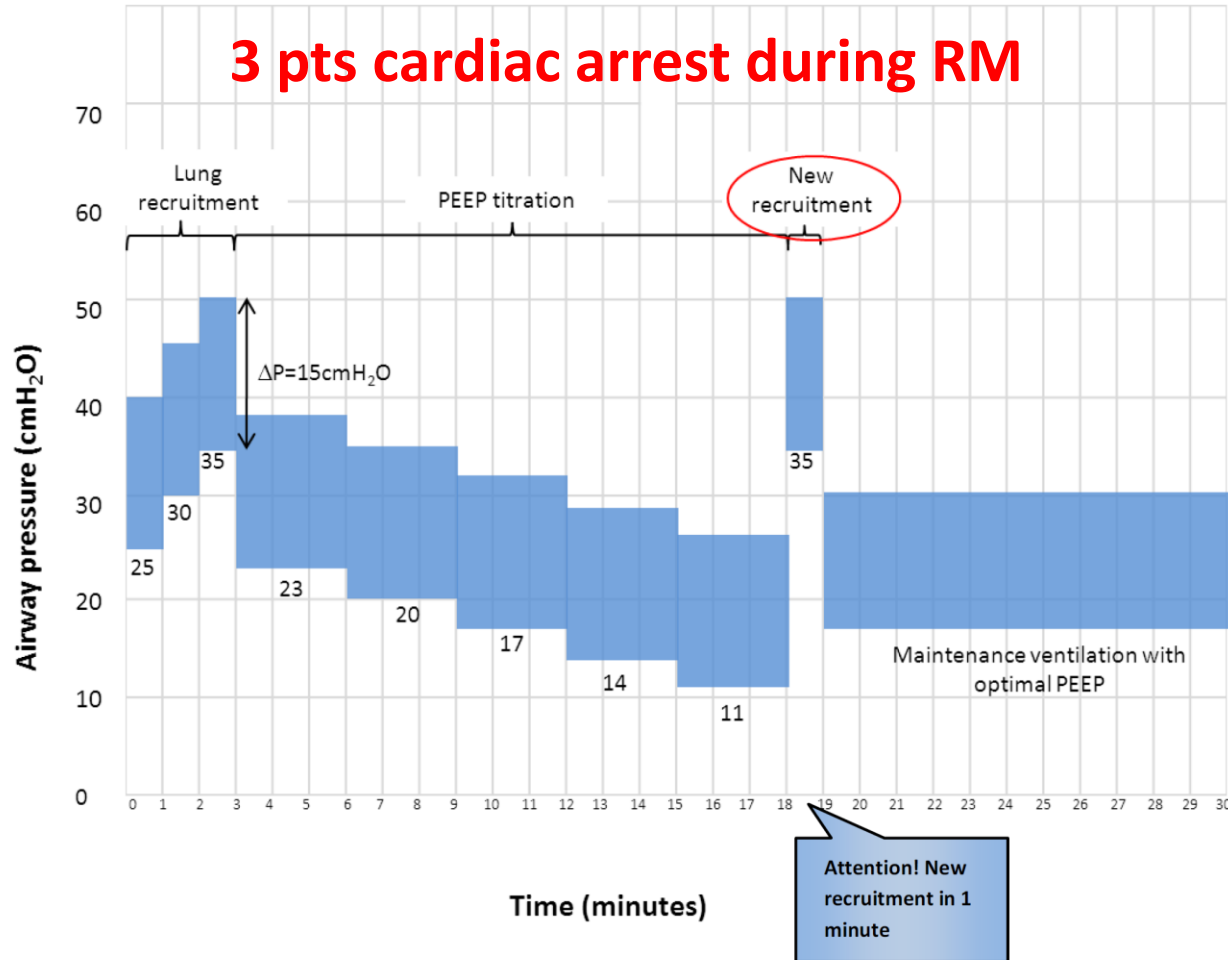
Step 3: PEEP of 17 cmH₂O
(keeping other parameters)
After 3 minutes, calculate compliance

Step 4: PEEP of 14 cmH₂O
(keeping other parameters)
After 3 minutes, calculate compliance

Step 5: PEEP of 11 cmH₂O
(keeping other parameters)
After 3 minutes, calculate compliance

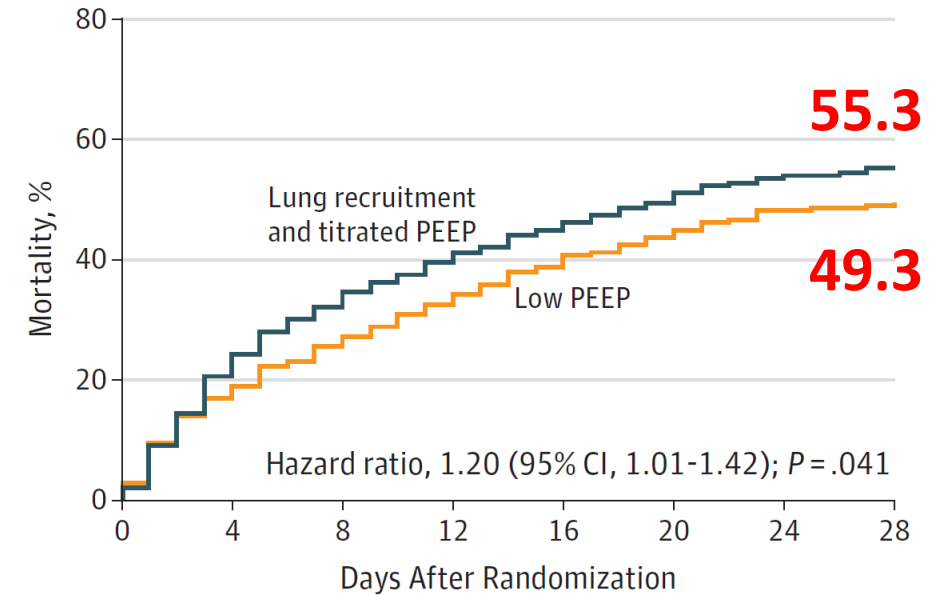
Optimal PEEP = PEEP value at maximum compliance plus 2 cmH₂O

ART trial, JAMA 2017



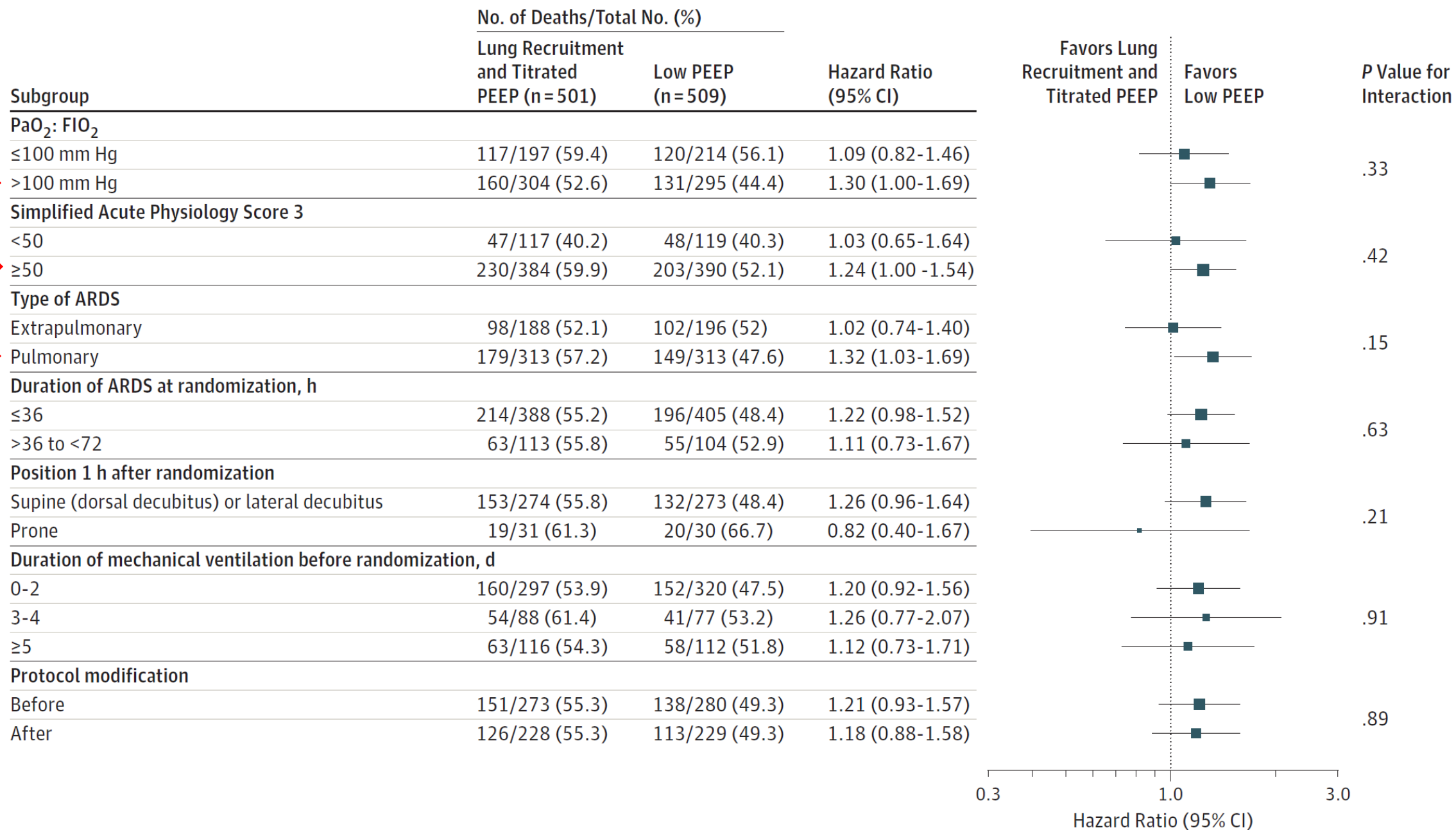
After performing a new alveolar recruitment, follow the steps in the section:
"ART STRATEGY - MAINTENANCE VENTILATION – INITIAL PARAMETERS"

Figure 2. 28-Day Mortality in the Lung Recruitment Maneuver With Titrated PEEP Group vs the Low-PEEP Group



- **Not support routine use of lung recruitment maneuver and PEEP titration in moderate to severe ARDS.**

Figure 3. Effects of the Lung Recruitment Maneuver With Titrated PEEP vs the Low-PEEP Group on Mortality According to Subgroups



對於ART trial的反思

- **1. PaO₂:FiO₂ ≤100**：氧合很差，不等於一定 **recruitable**
 - 低氧合可能來自不同機制：recruitable collapse、flooding / edema、consolidation、shunt、vascular dysregulation、overdistension 造成 dead space
- **2. SAPS 3 ≥50**：全身病情嚴重，對胸腔內高壓更脆弱
 - 66%受試者有 septic shock，平均 nonpulmonary organ failure 超過 2 個
- **3. Pulmonary ARDS**：不是所有肺都能被 **recruit**
 - 若不可 recruit 的區域多，高壓 recruitment 與高 PEEP 反而造成 baby lung overdistension，

如何判斷病人有recruitability呢?


- 2024 ATS guideline 提到lung recruitability assessment，包括
 - ✓ oxygenation response
 - ✓ driving pressure change
 - ✓ recruitment/inflation ratio
 - ✓ stress index
 - ✓ electrical impedance tomography, EIT


這些可能幫助 individualized PEEP titration。

Recruiting 

Careful Ventilation in Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (CAVIARDS)

ClinicalTrials.gov ID  NCT03963622

Sponsor  Unity Health Toronto

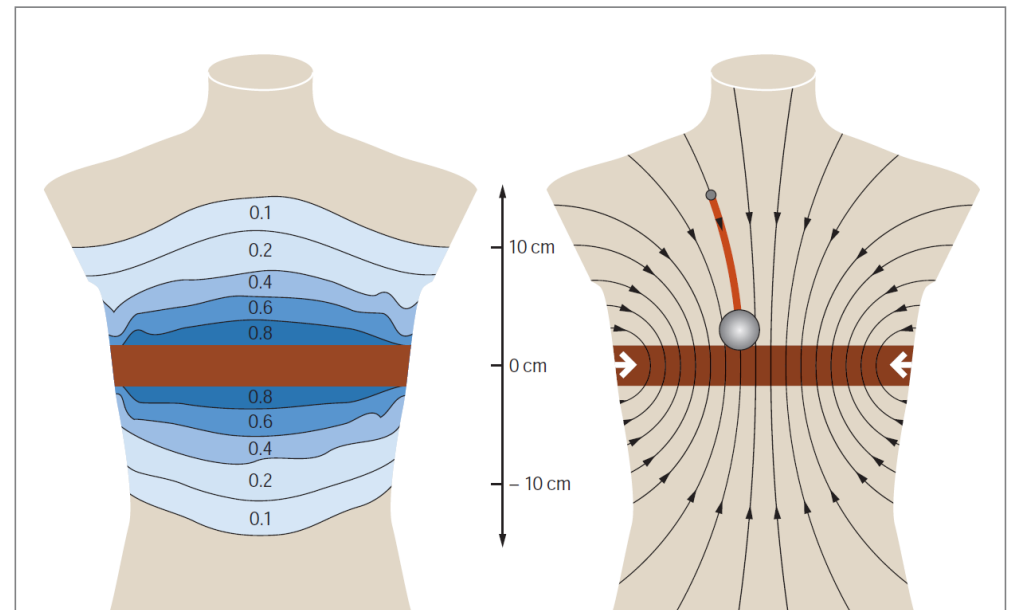
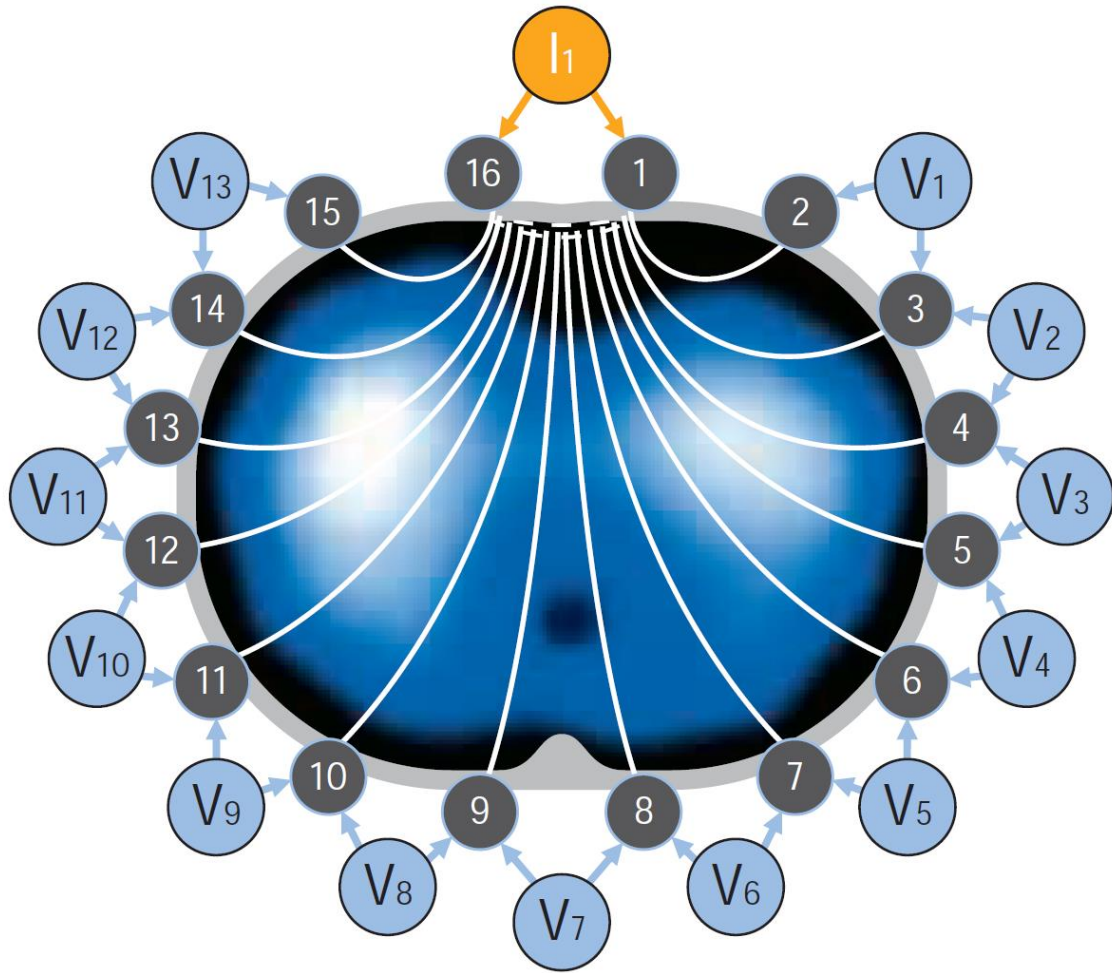
Information provided by  Unity Health Toronto (Responsible Party)

Last Update Posted  2026-01-16

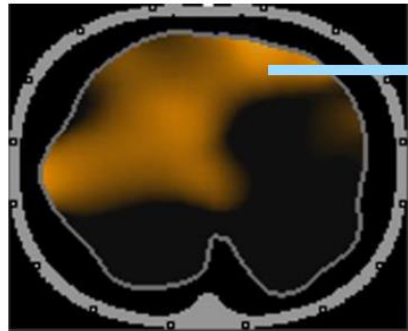
A large multicenter trial evaluating setting PEEP based on respiratory mechanics (recruitability and effort) is ongoing.

EIT-guided personalization

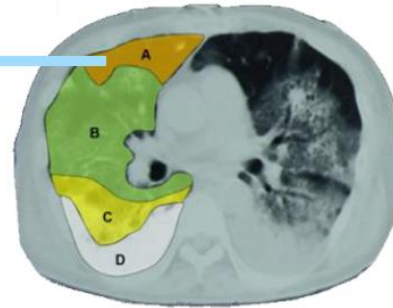
Electrical Impedance Tomography (EIT) 電阻抗斷層影像



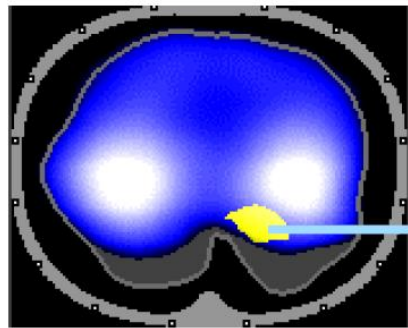
Display of harmful lung conditions



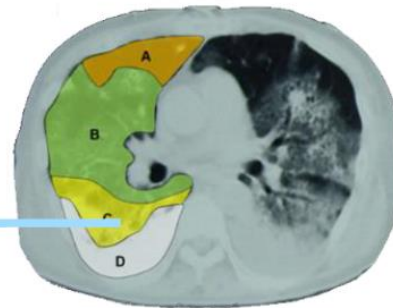
Overdistension



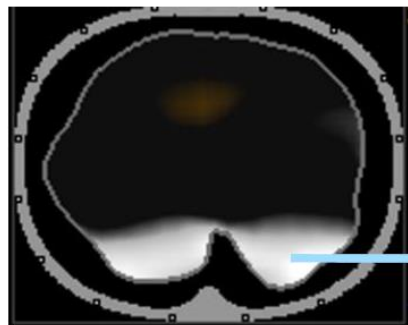
Decrease of compliance towards higher PEEP levels.
This typically occurs in ventral regions at high PEEP levels and may be interpreted as overdistension.¹



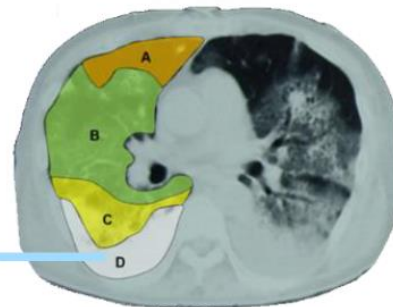
Cyclical opening and closing



The parameter RVD defines the extent of the temporal delay of the regional inspiration compared to the global inspiration and may indicate cyclical opening and closing.²

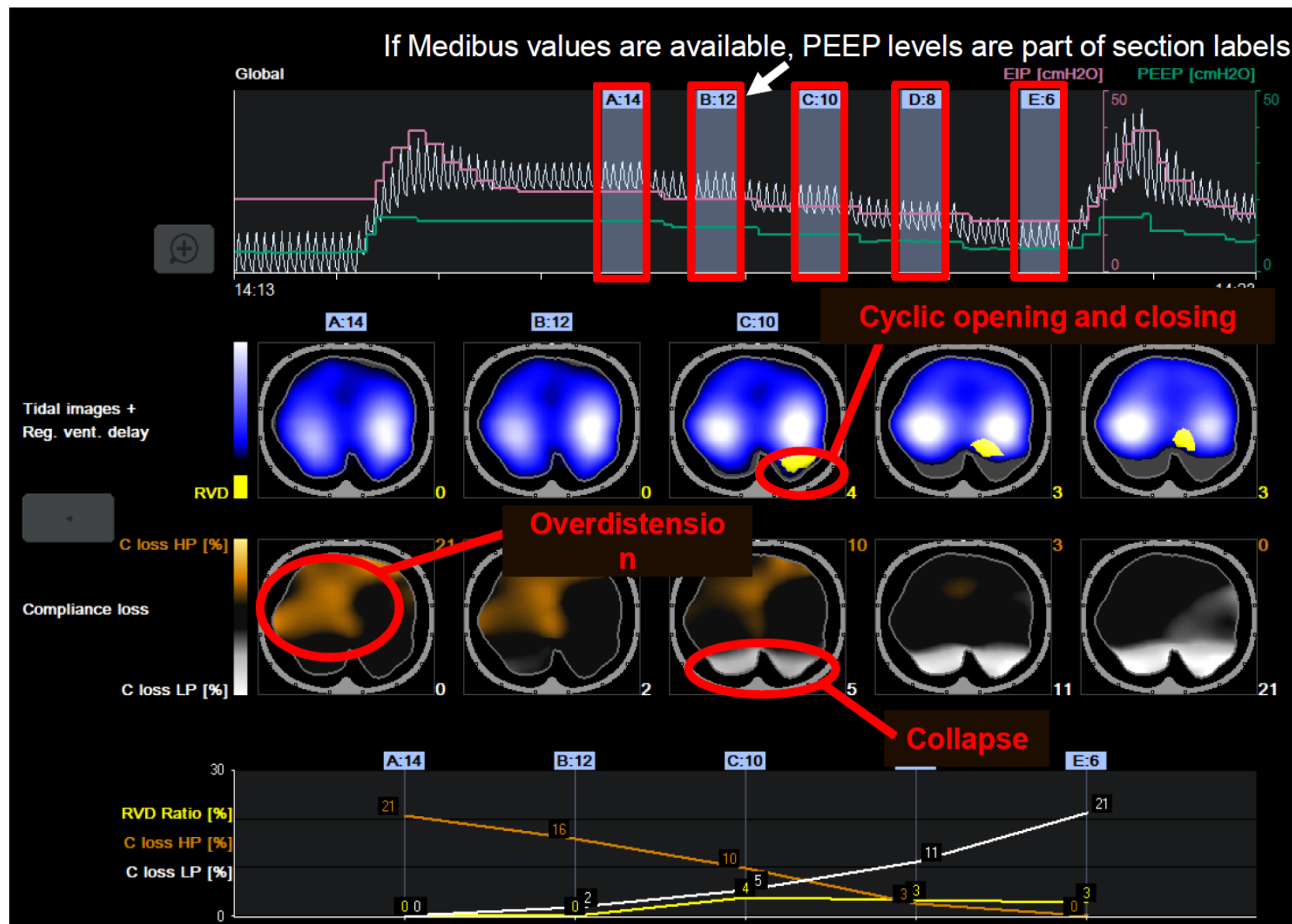


Collapsed areas



Decrease of compliance towards lower PEEP levels.
This typically occurs in dorsal regions at low PEEP levels and may be interpreted as collapse or derecruitment.¹

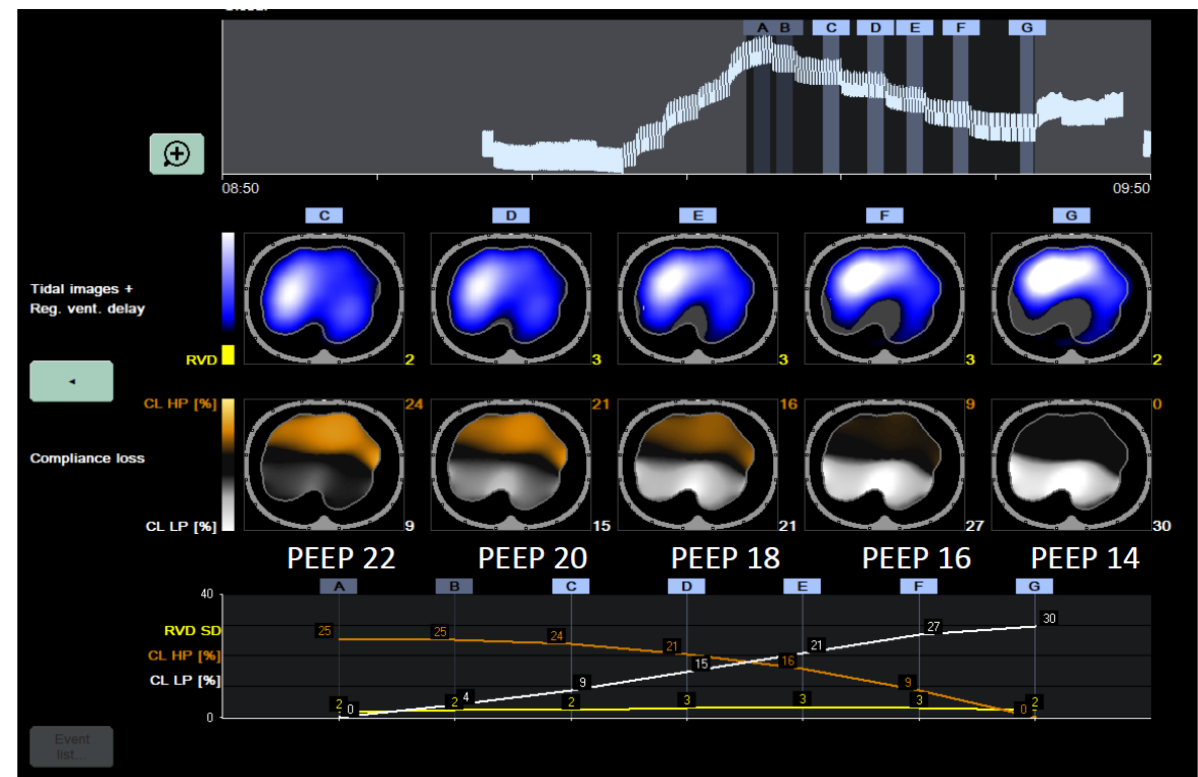
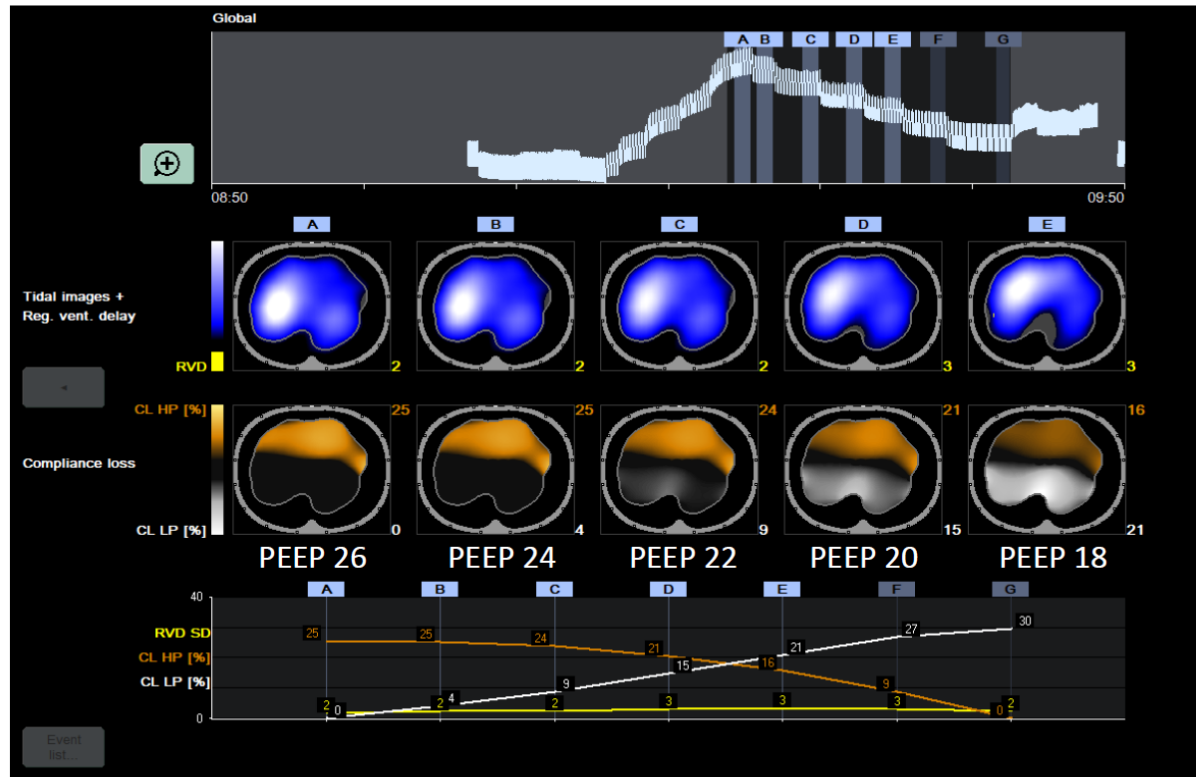
EIT-guided PEEP (1)



EIT-guided PEEP (2)

RM was done with max PEEP 26, followed by 2 cmH₂O stepwise decremental trail to 14

Optimal PEEP was 19, based on minimal collapse / over-distension theory proposed by Prof. Amato



EIT facilitates real-time, individualized PEEP adjustments, improving respiratory system mechanics.

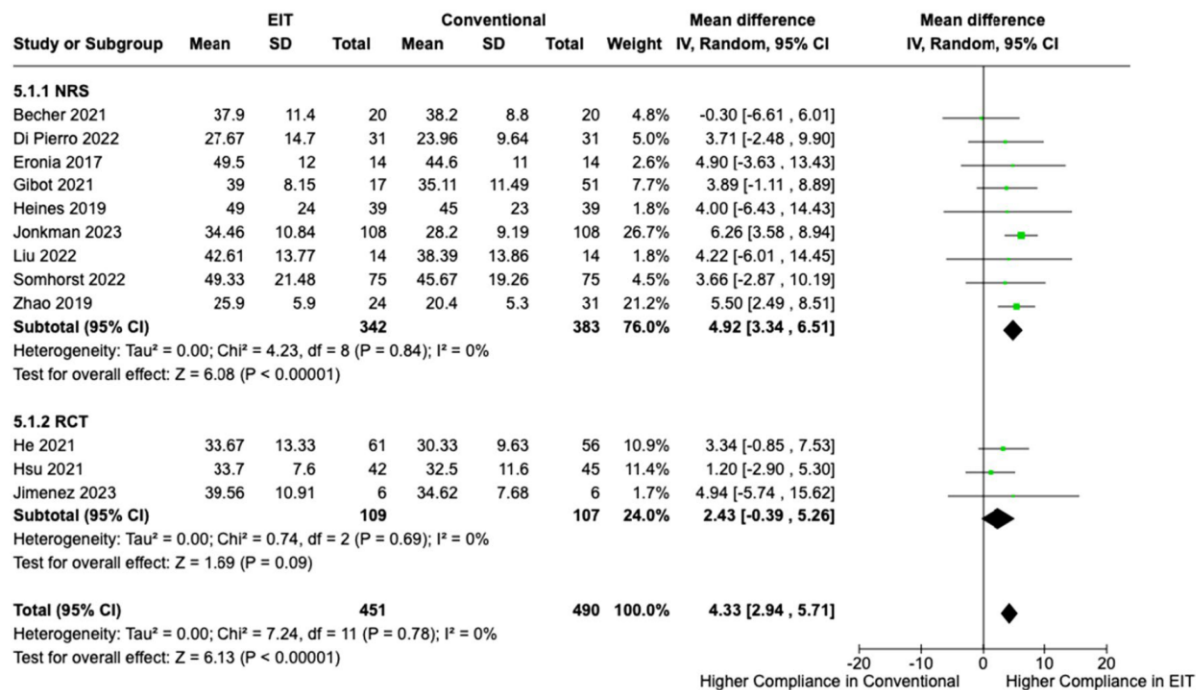


Fig. 2 Comparison of lung compliance between EIT-guided and conventional PEEP titration. *CI* confidence interval, *df* degrees of freedom, *I*² heterogeneity statistic, *IV* inverse variance method

Compliance ↑

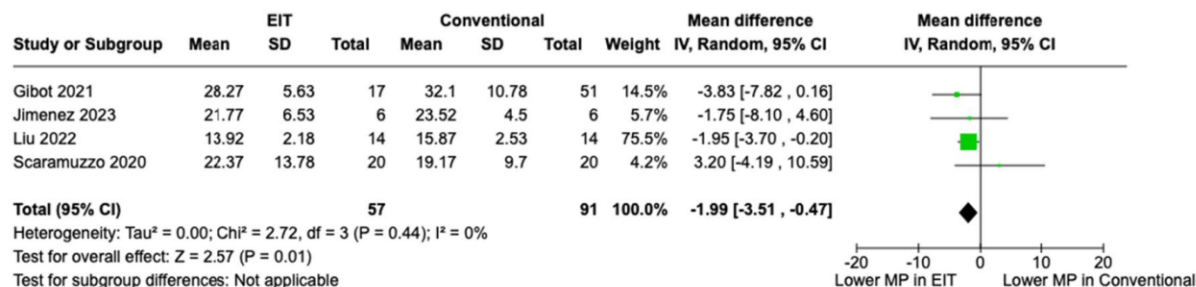


Fig. 3 Comparison of mechanical power between EIT-guided and conventional PEEP titration. *MP* mechanical power, *CI* confidence interval, *df* degrees of freedom, *I*² heterogeneity statistic, *IV* inverse variance method

Mechanical power ↓

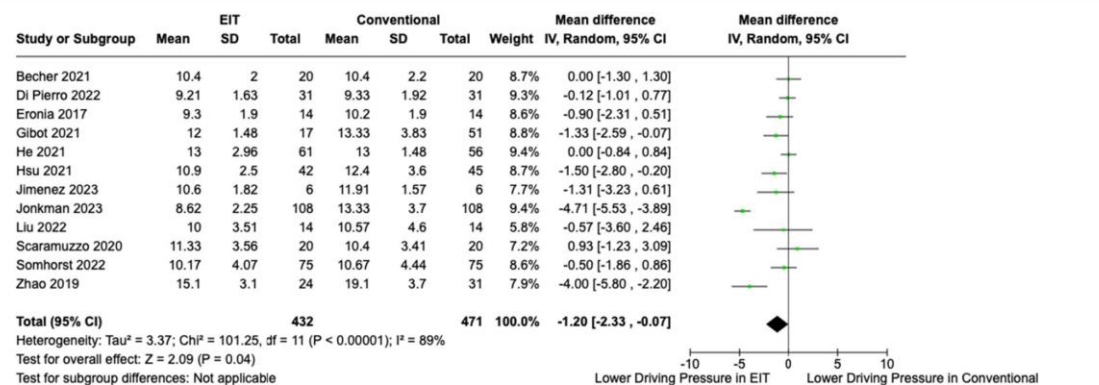
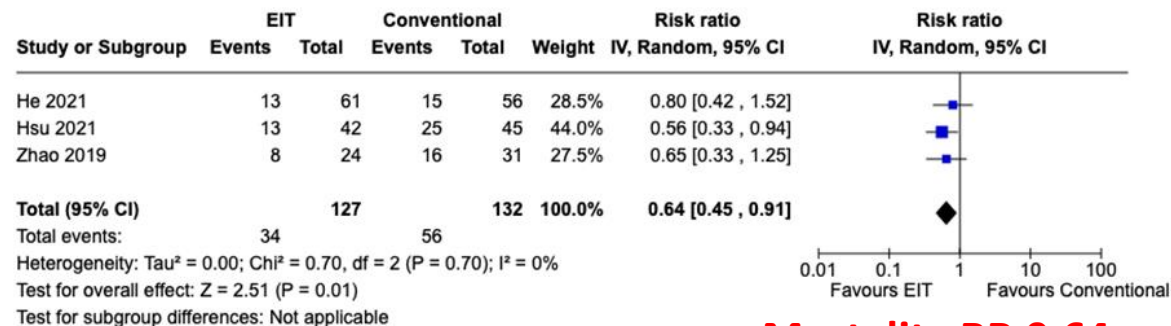


Fig. 4 Comparison of driving pressure between EIT-guided and conventional PEEP titration. *CI* confidence interval, *df* degrees of freedom, *I*² heterogeneity statistic, *IV* inverse variance method

Driving pressure ↓



Mortality RR 0.64
來自少數研究

Intensive Care Med (2024) 50:617–631

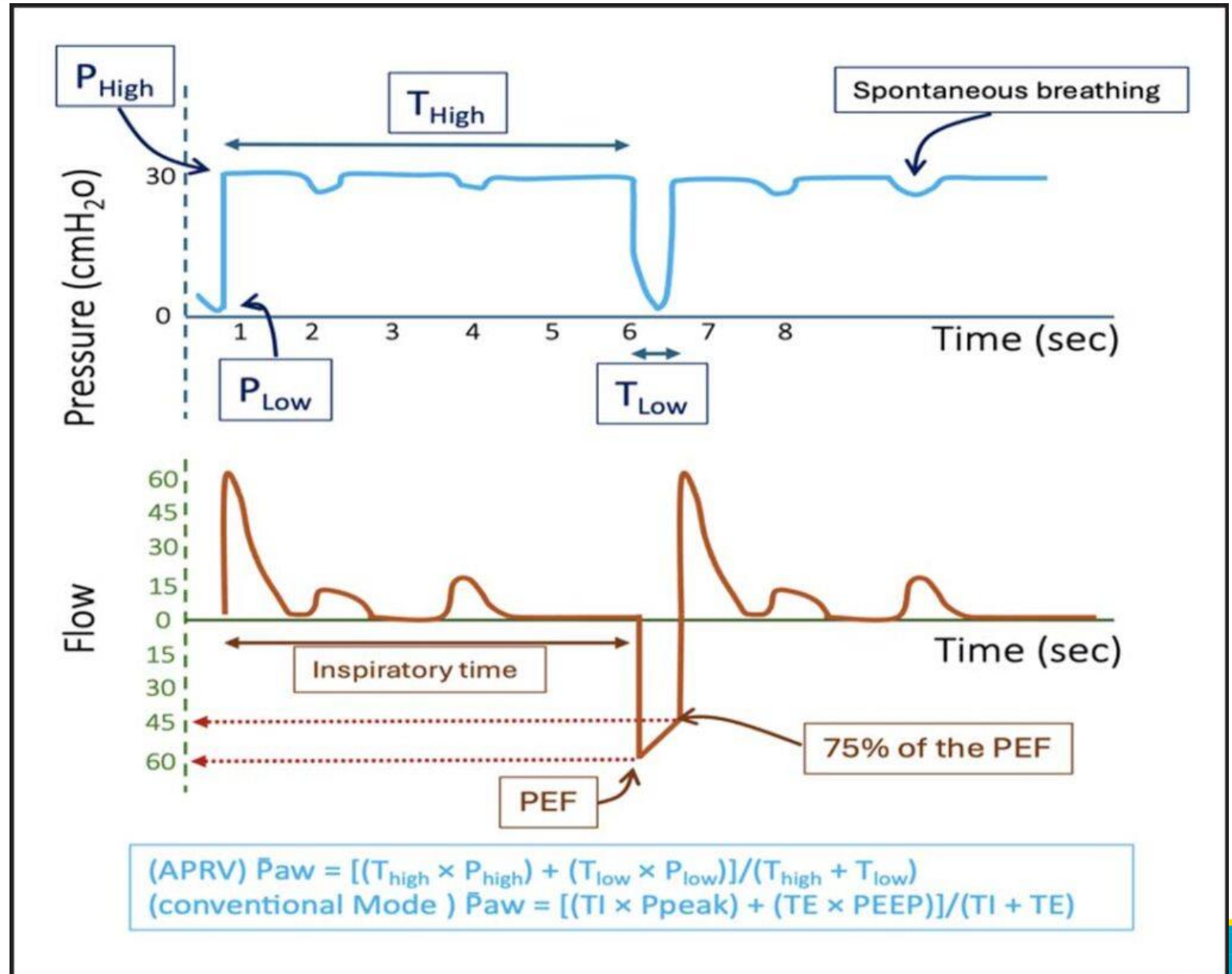
APRV、 HFOV、 ECCO₂-R

APRV: airway pressure release ventilation

APRV generates a **higher mean airway pressure (Paw)** compared with conventional ventilation.

APRV can support for **spontaneous breathing** throughout the ventilation cycle

maintain diaphragm activity, improving patient comfort and synchrony (?)



Efficacy of airway pressure release ventilation for ARDS

-6 個 RCT、共 360 位 ARDS 病人

-所有研究都有unclear risk of bias

-APRV 的設定高度不一致

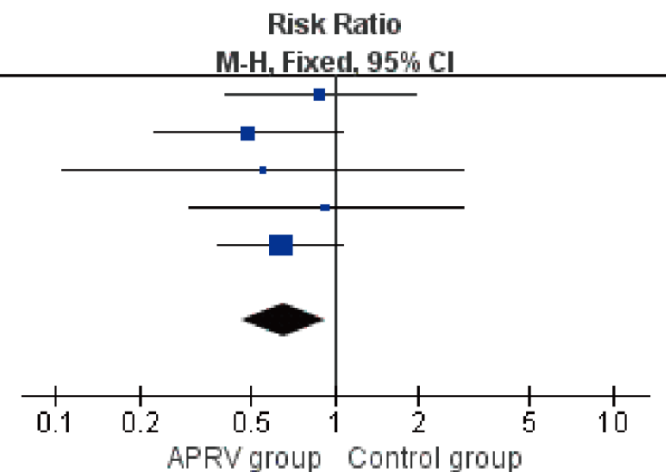
-對 PaO₂/FiO₂ 的結果並沒有顯著改善

Table 1 The basic information of the studies

Studies included	Intervention measures	Sample size	Male and female ratios	Age		Country	Outcomes
				APRV group	Control group		
Zhou Y 2017	APRV + LTV	138	91/47	51.5±15.0	52.0±15.1	China	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ , 28-day mortality, MAP, Ppeak
Li JQ 2016	APRV + SIMV	52	NA	54.3±8.4	53.6±9.5	China	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ , 28-day mortality, MAP, Ppeak
Varpula T 2004	APRV + SIMV	58	39/19	50.0 (38.5–60.5)	44.0 (35.5–53.0)	Finland	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ , 28-day mortality, MAP
Varpula T 2003	APRV + SIMV-PC/PS	33	25/8	50.0 (37.0–60.0)	46.5 (37.2–55.3)	Finland	28-day mortality
Ota K 2009	APRV + SIMV	57	NA	NA	NA	USA	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ , 28-day mortality
Song S 2016	APRV + SIMV	22	13/9	63 [40, 73]	73 [53, 80]	China	PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ , MAP, Ppeak

Study or Subgroup	APRV group		Control group		Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total		
J.-Q.LI 2016	8	26	9	26	15.7%	0.89 [0.41, 1.94]
Ota, K 2009	5	17	24	40	24.9%	0.49 [0.23, 1.07]
T.VARPULA 2003	2	18	3	15	5.7%	0.56 [0.11, 2.90]
T.VARPULA 2004	5	30	5	28	9.0%	0.93 [0.30, 2.88]
Zhou Y 2017	17	71	25	67	44.7%	0.64 [0.38, 1.08]
Total (95% CI)		162		176	100.0%	0.66 [0.47, 0.94]
Total events	37		66			
Heterogeneity: Chi ² = 1.53, df = 4 (P = 0.82); I ² = 0%						
Test for overall effect: Z = 2.30 (P = 0.02)						

28-day mortality



Chest 2025 搭配 EIT: APRV 可改善生理數值

CRITICAL CARE ■

In Patients With ARDS, Does Airway Pressure Release Ventilation Have Benefits Compared With Low Tidal Volume Ventilation?



STUDY DESIGN

Single-center randomized controlled trial of 40 patients with moderate-to-severe ARDS

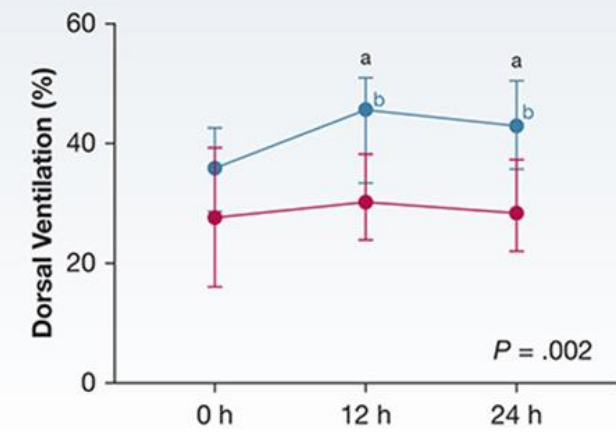
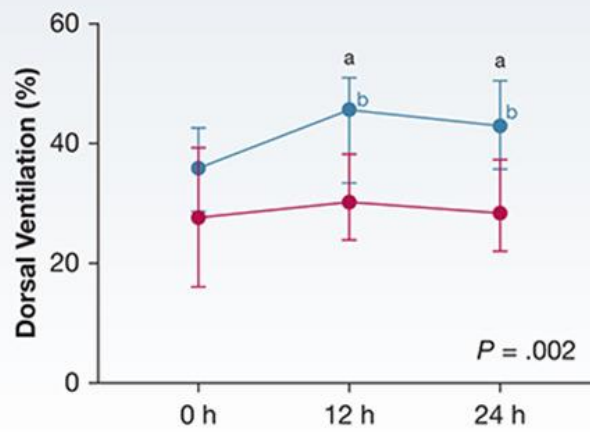


Compared lung ventilation and ventilation/perfusion (\dot{V}/\dot{Q}) homogeneity at 0, 12, and 24 hours via electrical impedance tomography

RESULTS

Patients with airway pressure release ventilation had:

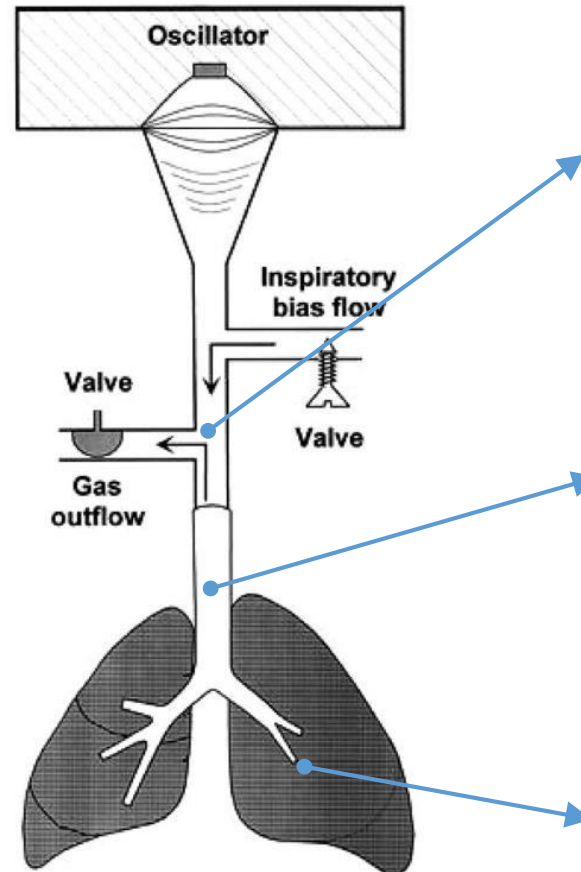
Increased dorsal ventilation	Decreased dorsal shunt
Increased dorsal \dot{V}/\dot{Q} matching	Lower ventilation distribution heterogeneity
Higher $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio	Higher respiratory system compliance
Lower CO_2	



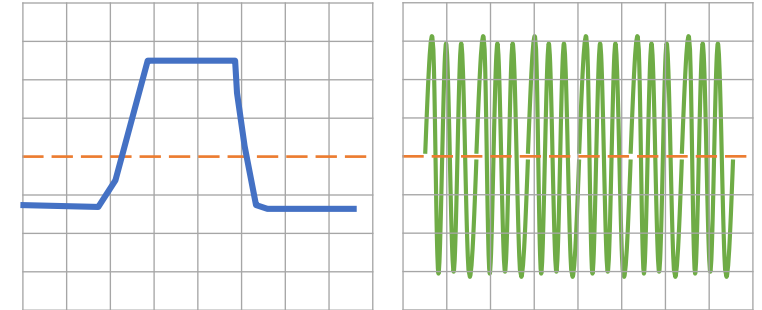
Dorsal \dot{V}/\dot{Q} at 0, 12, and 24 hours for low tidal volume (LTV) and airway pressure release ventilation (APRV)

In ventilated patients with ARDS, compared with low tidal volume, airway pressure release ventilation recruited dorsal lung, decreased dorsal shunt, and improved dorsal \dot{V}/\dot{Q} matching, which may contribute to higher blood oxygenation and compliance.

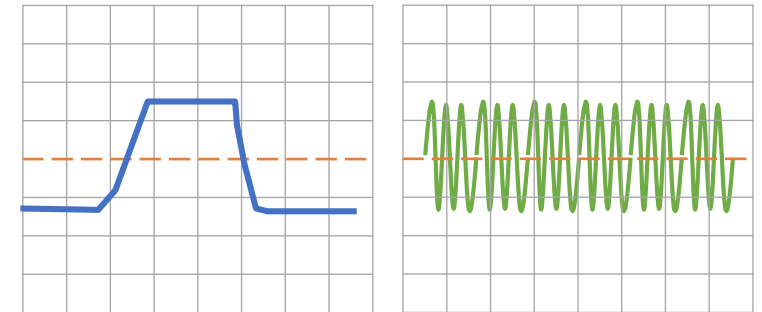
High-Frequency Oscillation Ventilation 高頻震盪通氣



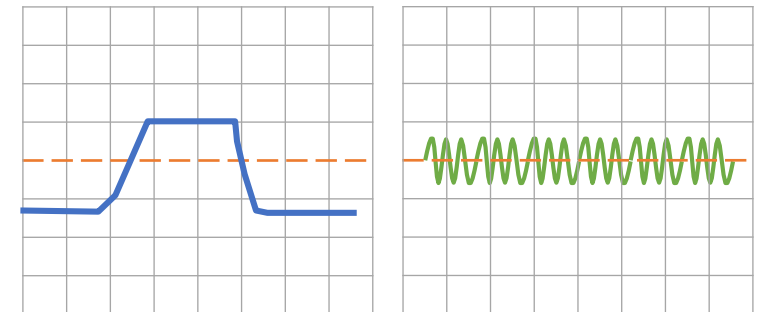
MAP



MAP



MAP



HFOV高頻震盪通氣的理論基礎

- High mean Paw
- Very small tidal volume (1-3 mL/kg)

- Potential benefits
- ↑ Lung recruitment
- ↓ Stress/strain (VILI)

High frequency oscillation in patients with acute lung injury and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS): systematic review and meta-analysis

Sachin Sud, fellow,¹ Maneesh Sud, medical student,² Jan O Friedrich, assistant professor,³ Maureen O Meade, associate professor,⁴ Niall D Ferguson, assistant professor,⁵ Hannah Wunsch, assistant professor,⁶ Neill K J Adhikari, lecturer⁷

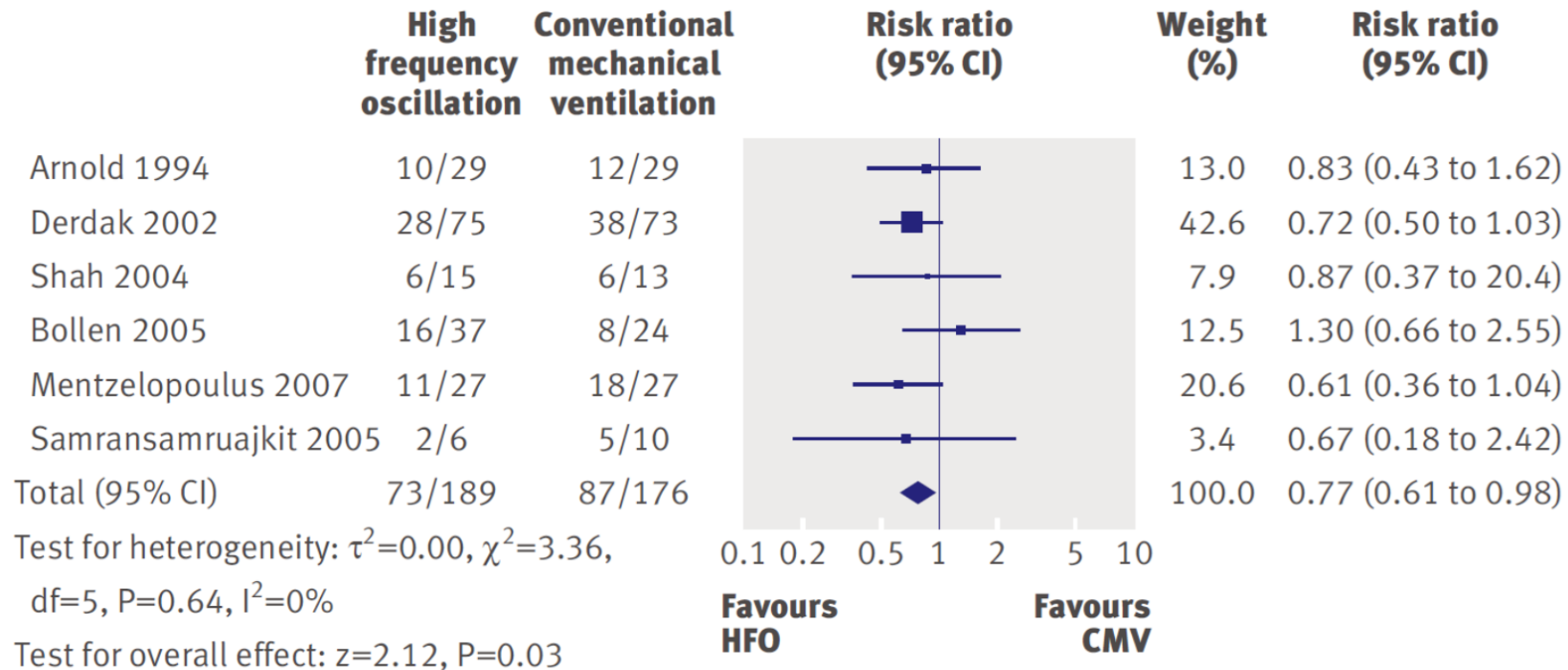


Fig 2 | Hospital or 30 day mortality in patients with acute lung injury/acute respiratory distress syndrome allocated to high frequency oscillation or conventional mechanical ventilation

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

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OSCILLATE Trial



High-Frequency Oscillation in Early Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Niall D. Ferguson, M.D., Deborah J. Cook, M.D., Gordon H. Guyatt, M.D., Sangeeta Mehta, M.D., Lori Hand, R.R.T., Peggy Austin, C.C.R.A., Qi Zhou, Ph.D., Andrea Matte, R.R.T., Stephen D. Walter, Ph.D., Francois Lamontagne, M.D., John T. Granton, M.D., Yaseen M. Arabi, M.D., Alejandro C. Arroliga, M.D., Thomas E. Stewart, M.D., Arthur S. Slutsky, M.D., and Maureen O. Meade, M.D., for the OSCILLATE Trial Investigators and the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group*

N Engl J Med 2013;368:795-805

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

OSCAR Trial



High-Frequency Oscillation for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Duncan Young, D.M., Sarah E. Lamb, D.Phil., Sanjoy Shah, M.D., Iain MacKenzie, M.D., William Tunnicliffe, M.Sc., Ranjit Lall, Ph.D., Kathy Rowan, D.Phil., and Brian H. Cuthbertson, M.D., for the OSCAR Study Group*

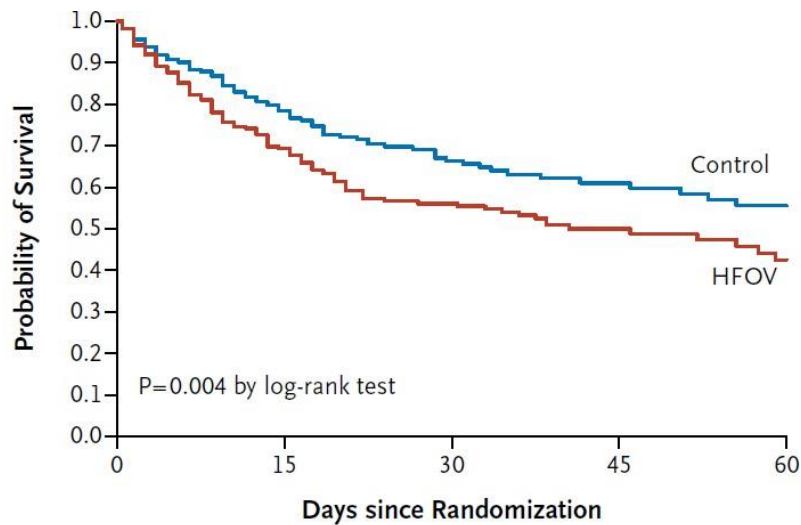
N Engl J Med 2013;368:806-813

	OSCILLATE	OSCAR
PaO ₂ :FiO ₂	117 mmHg	113 mmHg
Mean airway pressure (D1)	30 cm H ₂ O	26.9 cm H ₂ O
Frequency	5.5	7.8
Recruitment maneuvers	Prior to HFOV	Nil

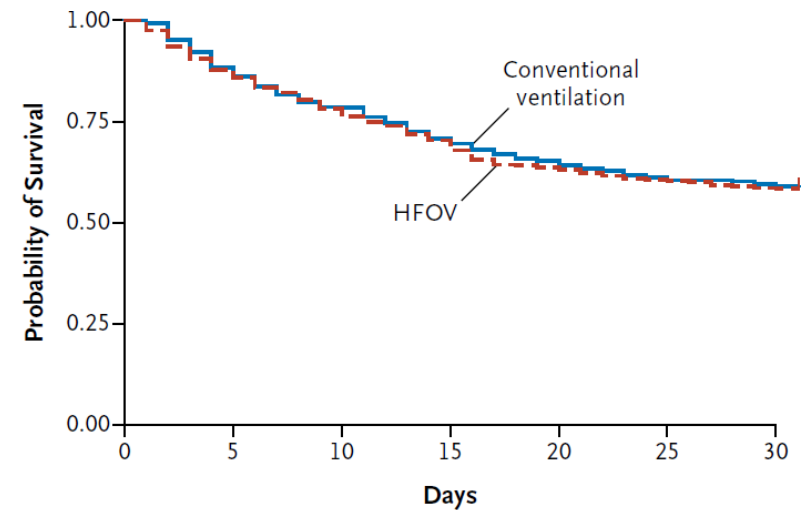
-HFOV 雖降低 tidal stretch，但可能增加 static stress

-HFOV較高的mean airway pressure可能影響右心功能

-需要深度鎮靜與肌鬆



No. at Risk	0	15	30	45	60
HFOV	275	169	98	54	26
Control	273	181	92	54	39



No. at Risk	0	5	10	15	20	25	30
Conventional ventilation	397	351	312	281	259	243	236
HFOV	398	349	311	280	253	241	233

ECCO₂ removal + low tidal volume, JAMA 2021

JAMA | Original Investigation | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

Effect of Lower Tidal Volume Ventilation Facilitated by Extracorporeal Carbon Dioxide Removal vs Standard Care Ventilation on 90-Day Mortality in Patients With Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

The REST Randomized Clinical Trial

以目前證據，沒有證明ECCO₂-R能改善死亡率
且adverse event發生率較高

JAMA. 2021;326(11):1013-1023.

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Curve of the Time to Death by Treatment Group in a Study of Lower Tidal Volume Facilitated by Extracorporeal Carbon Dioxide Removal in Patients With Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

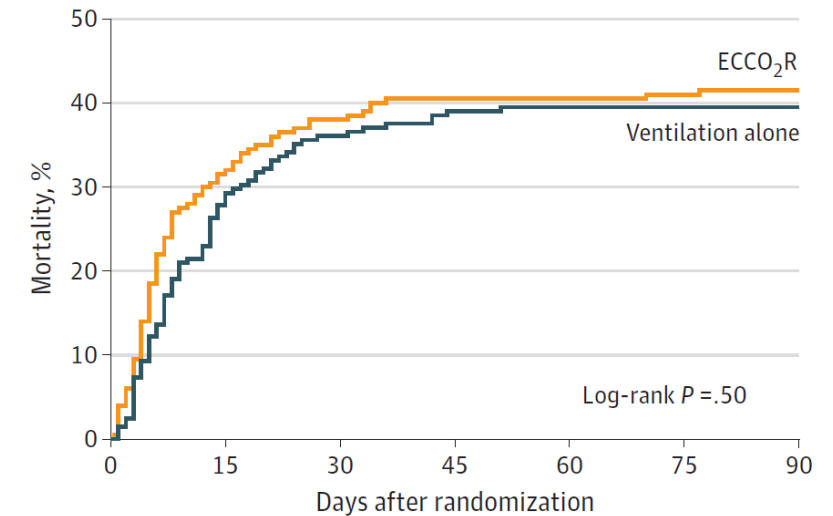
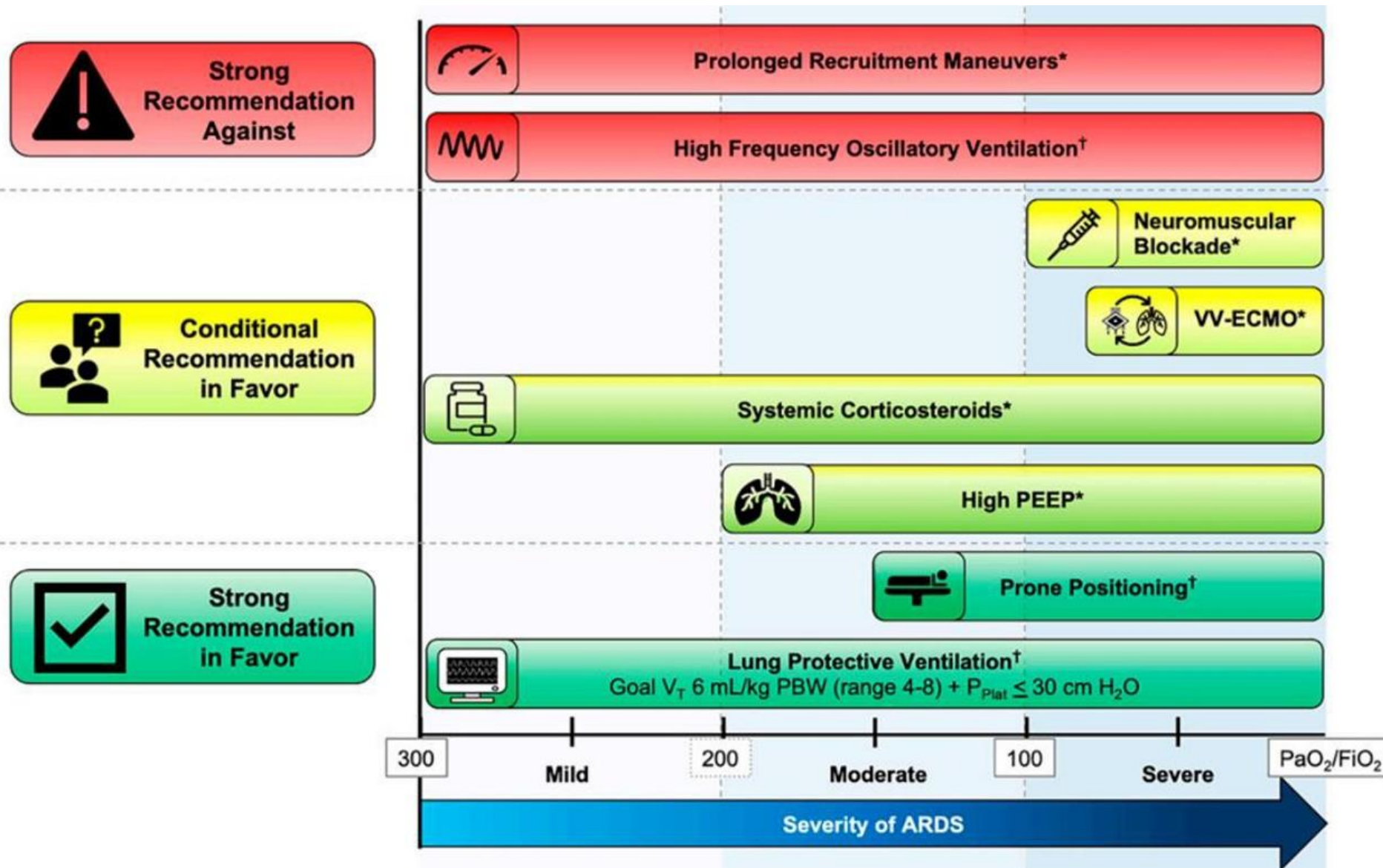


Table 3. Adverse Events in a Study of Lower Tidal Volume Facilitated by Extracorporeal Carbon Dioxide Removal in Patients With Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

Adverse event	ECCO ₂ R (n = 202)		Ventilation alone (n = 210)	
	No. of events	No. (%) of patients	No. of events	No. (%) of patients
Adverse events ^a	168	106 (52.5)	61	48 (22.9)
Related to study intervention ^{a,b}	65	51 (25.3)	0	0
Serious adverse events ^{c,d}	70	62 (30.7)	20	18 (8.6)
Related to study intervention ^b	22	21 (10.4)	0	0

ARDS的2023年最新指引 (ATS)



Take Home Messages

1. ARDS ventilation is not oxygenation chasing.
 - Same P/F ratio \neq same lung.
2. Lung protection remains the foundation.
 - Low VT \vee Pplat limitation \vee lower driving pressure.
3. PEEP is a double-edged tool.
 - High PEEP is not always better; individualized PEEP is the goal.
4. Recruitment requires proof, not belief.
 - Severe hypoxemia does not necessarily mean recruitable lung.
5. The future is bedside personalization.
 - EIT is promising for real-time regional assessment, but outcome evidence is still evolving.

Before every ventilator adjustment, ask:

“Am I opening the lung or injuring it?”