# Basic Physiology of Mechanical Ventilation

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# **Basic Physiology**

- Respiratory Mechanics
- Gas Exchange
- Cardiovascular-Pulmonary Interactions

# **Respiratory Mechanics**

# **Respiratory Mechanics**

- The expression of lung function through measures of pressure and flow (volume)
- Derived indices
  - Compliance (volume/pressure)
  - Resistance (pressure/flow)
  - Work Of Breathing (WOB) (flow x pressure)
- Wave form: one of the parameters
  - plotted as function of time (trend, tracing...)
  - As a function of one of the other parameters (loop)

### Pressure

- Airway Pressure
- Equation of Motion
- Alveolar Pressure
- Plateau Pressure
- Mean Airway Pressure
- Auto-PEEP
- Esophageal Pressure
- Transthoracic pressure: Prs(Palv – Pbs) Transpulmonary pressure: Pl(Palv – Ppl) Pressure across chest wall: Pw(Ppl – Pbs) Esophageal pressure: Pes

Pressure at airway opening:

Pressure at body surface:

Pleural pressure: Ppl Alveolar pressure: Palv

Pao

Pbs

- Transpulmonary Pressure (PL), Transthoracic Pressure (Pw), Transrespiratory Pressure (Prs)
- Intra-abdominal Pressure, Transdiaphragmatic Pressure
- Applications: Asynchrony, Stress Index

## **Airway Pressure**

- The shape of the airway pressure waveform
  - flow and tidal volume ( $V_T$ ) from the ventilator
  - lung mechanics of the patient
  - active breathing efforts of the patient

#### Equation of Motion

$$P_{vent} + P_{mus} = V_T / C_{RS} + R_{aw} \times \dot{V}_I$$

#### + PEEP + PEEPi + inertance

#### **Airway pressure** and **flow** waveforms during constant flow volume control ventilation

(effect of an end inspiratory breath-hold: 0.5-2s)



#### Mechanical vs. Spontaneous Ventilation





# The effect of changes in compliance, resistance, volume, and flow on the pressures



# The effect of changes in flow profiles on the pressures and volume



### Auto-PEEP measurement - 1



- Incomplete emptying of the lungs at the end of expiration.
- The pressure produced by this trapped gas is called auto-PEEP, intrinsic PEEP, PEEPi, or occult PEEP

### Auto-PEEP measurement -2

In spontaneously breathing patients, measurement of esophageal pressure (Pes) can be used to determine auto-PEEP



Auto-PEEP is a function of ventilator settings and lung function

#### **†** Increased with

- increased resistance and compliance
- increased breathing frequency or increased inspiratory time (Ti) (both decrease Te)
- increased Vt

#### ↓ Decreased by

- Decreasing minute ventilation (rate or Vt)
- increasing Te (decreasing rate or Ti)
- decreasing Raw (eg, bronchodilator administration)

auto-PEEP =  $V_T / (C_{RS} \times (e^{Kx \times T_E - 1}))$ 

# Asynchrony

- Patient-ventilator asynchrony
  - Volume control mode: airway pressure waveform
  - Pressure control mode: flow/volume waveform
- Effect of asynchrony on the airway pressure waveform during



### Stress Index:



\* The stress index is used to assess the shape of the pressure-time curve during constant flow-volume control ventilation

- Stress index = 1: linear increase in pressure (constant compliance)
- Stress index > 1: compliance worsens as the lungs inflated, suggests over-distension
  >> recommendation: decrease PEEP
- Stress index < 1: compliance improved as the lungs inflated, suggests tidal recruitment/potential for additional recruitment > recommendation: increase PEEP

Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2007;176(8):761-767

#### **Application of Stress Index**



Respir Care 2011; 56(10):1555-1572

# **Flow and Volume**

- Inspiratory Flow
- Expiratory Flow
- Tidal Volume
- End-Expiratory Lung Volume
- Time Constant

# Inspiratory Flow / Expiratory Flow

- During pressure control ventilation
  - Insp. flow:  $\dot{V}_{I} = (\Delta P/R_{aw}) \times e^{-t/\tau}$
  - Exp. flow:  $\dot{V} = -(P_{alv}/R_{aw}) \times e^{-t/\tau}$



Time (s)



#### Detect auto-PEEP by Expiratory flow



#### Patient with severe COPD



# Tidal Volume

- Modern critical care ventilator
  - Not measure volume directly, but derived this from integration of flow
  - Correct volume for circuit compression
  - The volume waveform
    - Detect the presence of a *leak* or *trapping*



# Time Constant ( $\tau$ )

- The rate of change in the volume of a lung unit that is passively inflated or deflated
  - $V_t = V_i \times e^{-t/\tau}$

\*

- Vt is the volume of a lung unit at time t,
- Vi is the initial volume of the lung unit,
- e is the base of the natural logarithm,

#### - au is the time constant = Resistance x Compliance

- 63% volume change in 1 *T*, 87% volume change in 2 *T*
- 95% volume change in 3 *T*, 98% volume change in 4 *T*

– 99% volume change in 5 T

\*  $\tau_{\rm E} = \text{exhaled } V_{\rm T} / \dot{V}_{\rm EXH}$ 

# **Derived Measurements**

- Respiratory System Compliance
- Chest-Wall Compliance
- Lung Compliance
- Airway Resistance
- Work of Breathing



## **Respiratory System Compliance**

- Crs =  $\Delta V / \Delta P$  = Vt/(Pplat PEEP)
  - Normal range (MV): 50-100 mL/cm H2O
- Determined by the compliance of
  - Lungs
  - Chest wall
- Used to determined the optimal level of PEEP
  - The highest level of Crs corresponds to best PEEP
  - The optimal PEEP results in the lowest driving pressure (Pplat-PEEP) with constant Vt

# Chest Wall/Lung Compliance

- Ccw =  $\Delta V / \Delta P$  = Vt/  $\Delta Pes$  (Ppl)
  - Normal: 200 mL/cm H2O
  - Decreased with obesity
- $C_L = \Delta V / \Delta P = Vt / \Delta P_L$ 
  - Normal: 200 mL/cm H2O
  - Decreased with pul. edema, consolidation....
  - Increased with emphysema

\* 
$$1/C_{RS} = 1/C_{CW} + 1/C_{L}$$

### **Airway Resistance**

- Ri = (PIP-Pplat)/ $\dot{V}_{I}$ 
  - For intubation and MV patient: < 10 cm H2O/L/s</li>
- Re = (Pplat-PEEP)/ $\dot{V}_{EXH}$

- Greater then Ri



# Work of Breathing (WOB)

- WOB =  $\int P \times V$ 
  - affected by Ccw, C<sub>L</sub>, Raw
- Normal: 0.3-0.7 J/L
  4-8 J/min
  - <10 J/min (weaned)</pre>
- Campbell diagram:
  - The green area: elastic WOB
  - The blue area: resistive WOB
  - The total shaded area: total WOB



# Others

- Pressure-Volume Curves
- Flow-Volume Loops
- Tension-Time Index
- Pressure-Time Product
- Stress and Strain

### **Pressure-Volume Curves**

- P-V curve: volume as function of pressure
- The slope of P-V curve: Crs
- Super syringe method:
  - Inflation with a constant flow (< 10 L/min)</li>
  - Pplat at various inflation volumes
- Ventilator with PV tools
- Setting PEEP based on inflection points



# Flow-Volume Loops : flow as a function of volume



# Tension-Time Index (TTI)

#### • TTI

- = (Pdi/Pdimax) X (Ti/Ttot)
  - (Contractile force of the diaphragm) X (the contraction duration)
- > 0.15: Predict diaphragmatic fatigue
- Requires esophageal and gastric pressure measurement > clinically, replaced by

– Pressure time Index (PTI)

= (Pbreath/PImax) X (TI/Ttot)

# Pressure-Time Product (PTP)

- PTP: Quantify patient's effort
- account for energy expenditures during the dynamic and isometric phase of respiration
- As the time integral of the difference between the Pes tracing and the chest wall recoil pressure
- Normal: 120 cmH2O.sec/min
  - < 125 for weaning</p>



### Stress and Strain

- Stress: a force applied to an area
  - such as pressure applied to the lung parenchyma
  - force applied at an angle generates shear stress
- Strain: the physical deformation or change in shape of a structure
  - such as an alveolus, usually caused by stress
- PL (stress)
  - = specific lung elastance (13.5) X  $\Delta$ V/FRC (strain)
    - $-~\Delta V$ : the change in lung volume above FRC with the addition of PEEP & VT
- A harmful threshold of strain is > 2
- The harmful threshold of stress (PL) is 27 cm H2O

# Gas Exchange

#### The components of normal gas exchange

- Delivery of oxygen
- Excretion of carbon dioxide
- Matching of ventilation and perfusion
- Gas diffusion

#### Matching of Ventilation and Perfusion











# Cardiovascular-Pulmonary Interactions

The interaction between positive pressure ventilation and its effects on right and left ventricular pre- and afterload and ventricular interdependence

# Haemodynamic effects of PPV



Annals of intensive Care 2011;1(1):1

# **Summary**

- Be familiar with the factors (MV setting, resp. mechanics, and effort) affecting pressure/ flow/ volumes and related waveforms
- Measurement & management of auto-PEEP
- Using basic (P/F/V) and derived (compliance, resistance, SI, WOB, TTI, PTP..) parameters to evaluate mechanical ventilated patients
- Determined the cause of hypoxemia (V? Q?)
- Keep in mind the heart-lung interaction, esp. in severe heart failure with acute pulmonary edema
- Look at the ventilator monitor and patient simultaneously !
  - Numbers and Waveforms

