

# CRISIS sessions: Mechanical Ventilation

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Continuing Professional Development**

Faculty of Medicine

# Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that am grateful to live, work and play on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation



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# Presenter Disclosures

None



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# Learning Objectives

Identify those patients requiring mechanical ventilation

Apply knowledge to plan and enact strategies for providing ventilatory support

Manage common complications encountered in the ventilated patient



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# OVERVIEW

- Indications for ventilation
- Preparation for ventilation:  
*what to get ready and what to anticipate*
- Case examples
- Troubleshooting in a rural and remote context



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# INDICATIONS FOR VENTILATION

- Primary respiratory indications:  
actual or impending respiratory failure
- Non-respiratory indications:  
*neurological,*  
*logistical (eg for safe transfer)*  
*pain and procedural,*  
*?severe refractory shock, ? Severe acidemia*



# RESPIRATORY FAILURE

Objective markers:

ABGs, FiO<sub>2</sub> requirements, RR and work of breathing, LOC

Subjective influences:

'looks terrible' 'exhausted', expected trajectory, 'can't stay here'

Local context: not always appreciated!



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# CASE NO 1

63 year old woman with 3 day history of fever and cough  
pmh: HTN, dyslipdemia,

Presents to ED in McBRIDE at 22:00 with worsening dyspnea

SpO2 83% on room air in ED. 91% on 15L/min NRBM  
RR 28/min

CXR shows patchy consolidation



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# CASE NO 1: RESOURCES

Human: Locally - 2 *ED nurses, GP colleague at home just off shift*

*Lab tec and CXR tec (both on call)*

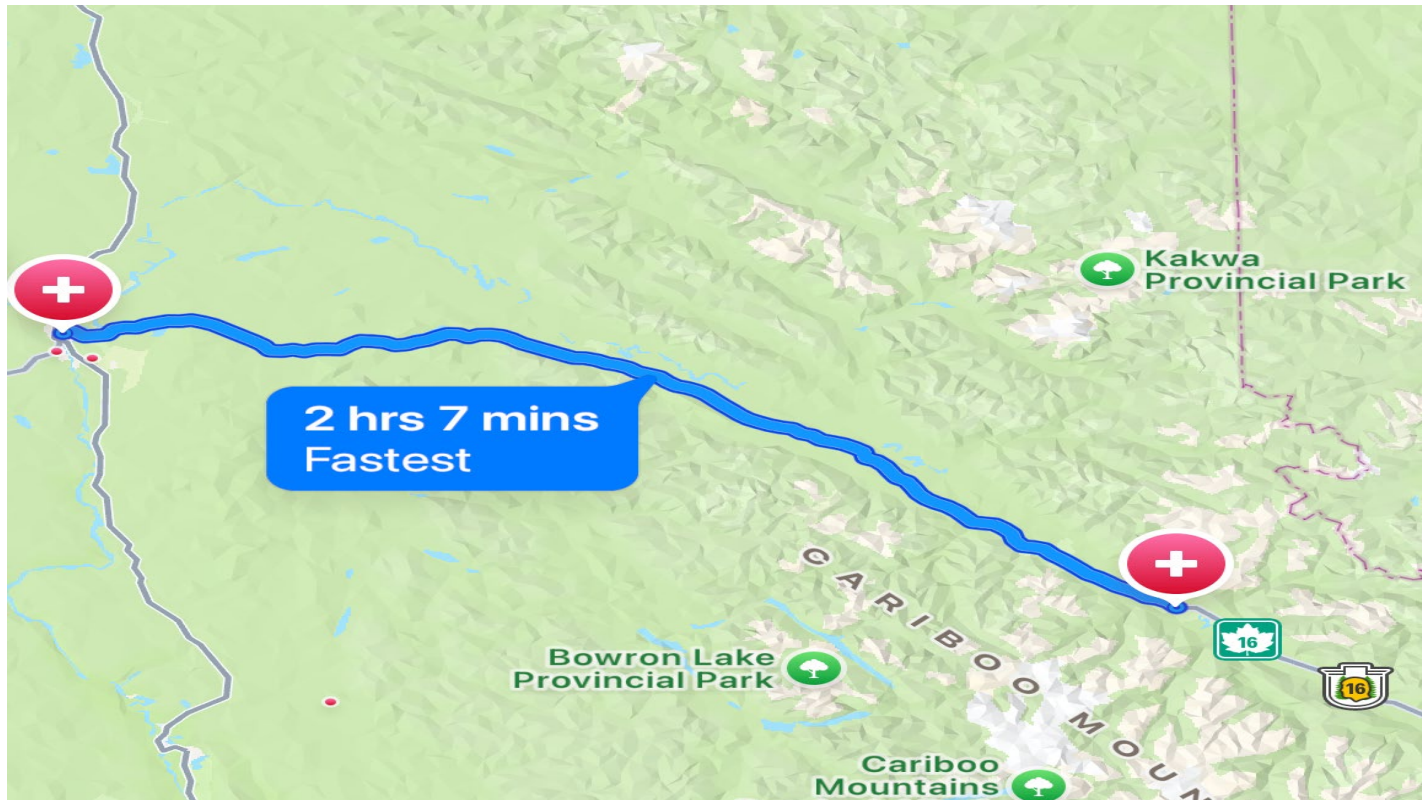
Equipment: *airway equipment and medication, Hamilton T1 transport ventilator and monitor*



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# CASE NO 1: CONTEXT

211 Km to UHNBC – minimum 2 hours by road



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# CASE NO 1: APPROACH

Decision making:

Task allocation:

Remote support and cognitive aids:



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# CASE NO 1: DECISION MAKING

Initial Management: O2, vitals, investigations and antibiotics

HFNC: 60L/min, 80 % O2

ABG on HFNC: pH 7.34. CO2 35, O2 51 O2 sat 90%

Looks tired and unwell



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# CASE NO 1: DECISION MAKING

Severe hypoxemic respiratory failure (p/f: < 100)

Trajectory?

Local resources: effect on capacity

Remote support: nearest ICU physician, RUDI etc, RT support



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# CASE NO 1: PREPARATION

Equipment: ventilator, gas supply, power supply, circuit, HMEF,  
monitoring, suction  
operating manual

What are the initial ventilator settings?

How might this patient behave when I initiate ventilation?



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# CASE NO 1: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

Patient factors: O2 requirement, IBW and body habitus



Ventilator factors:

Hamilton T1 (NH)

Monnal T60

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# CASE NO 1: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

Mode: controlled/spontaneous



Settings: **FiO2**  
respiratory rate  
tidal volume/pressure  
**PEEP**  
flow rate/I:E ratio/Ti

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# MICRO-TEACHING: VENTILATOR SETTINGS

Controlled modes:

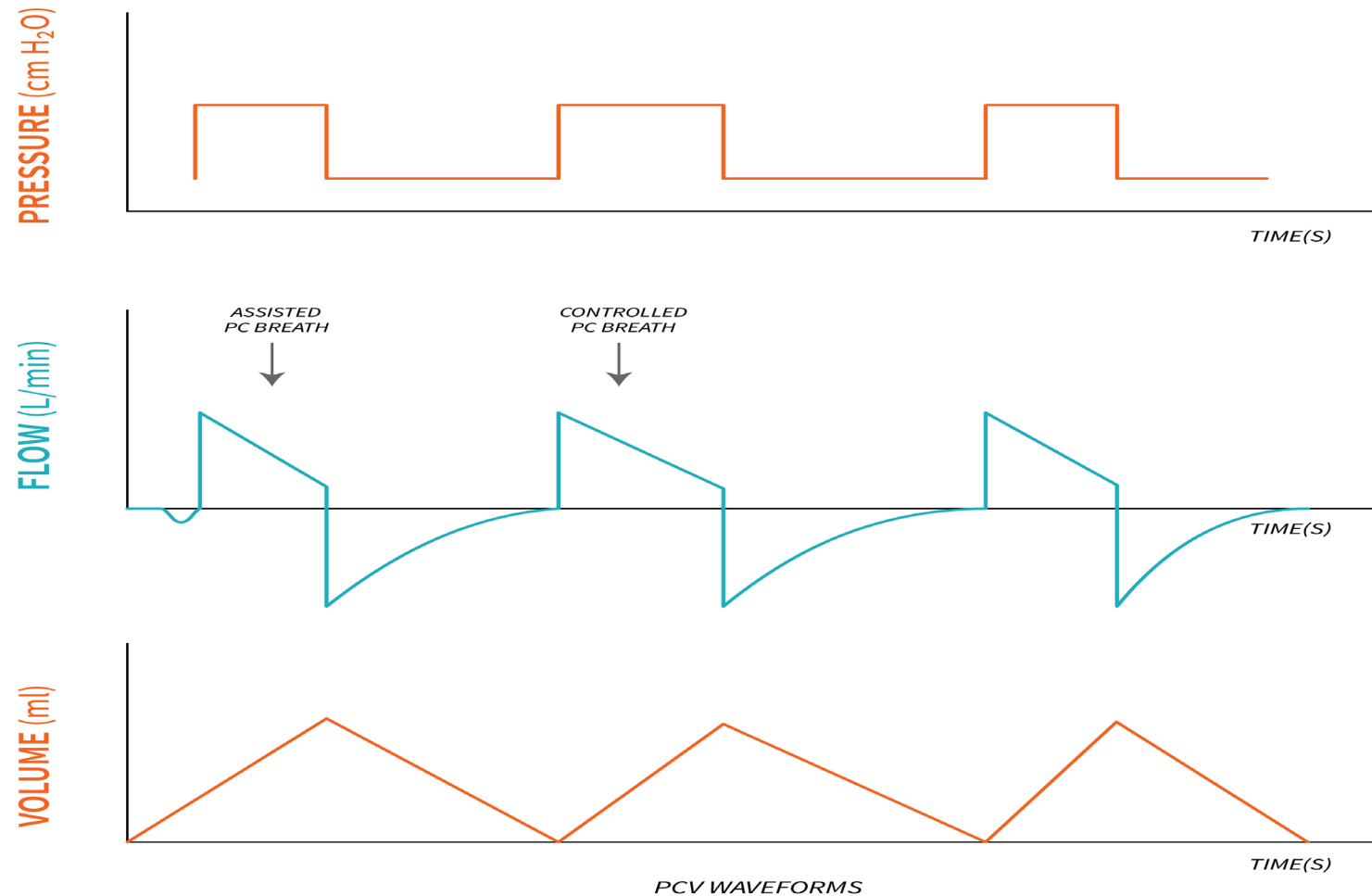
PCV and VCV: variations on PCVG/VC+

CMV and AC



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# MICRO-TEACHING: VENTILATOR SETTINGS



# CASE NO 1: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS





# CASE NO 1: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

After 10 minutes: SpO2 92%, peak Paw = 26cmH2O

Auscultation: decreased throughout left lung field and R base

Thoughts?



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# CASE NO 1: TROUBLE SHOOTING

High peak pressures and low O2 saturations

Circuit vs patient? Disconnect and manually ventilate

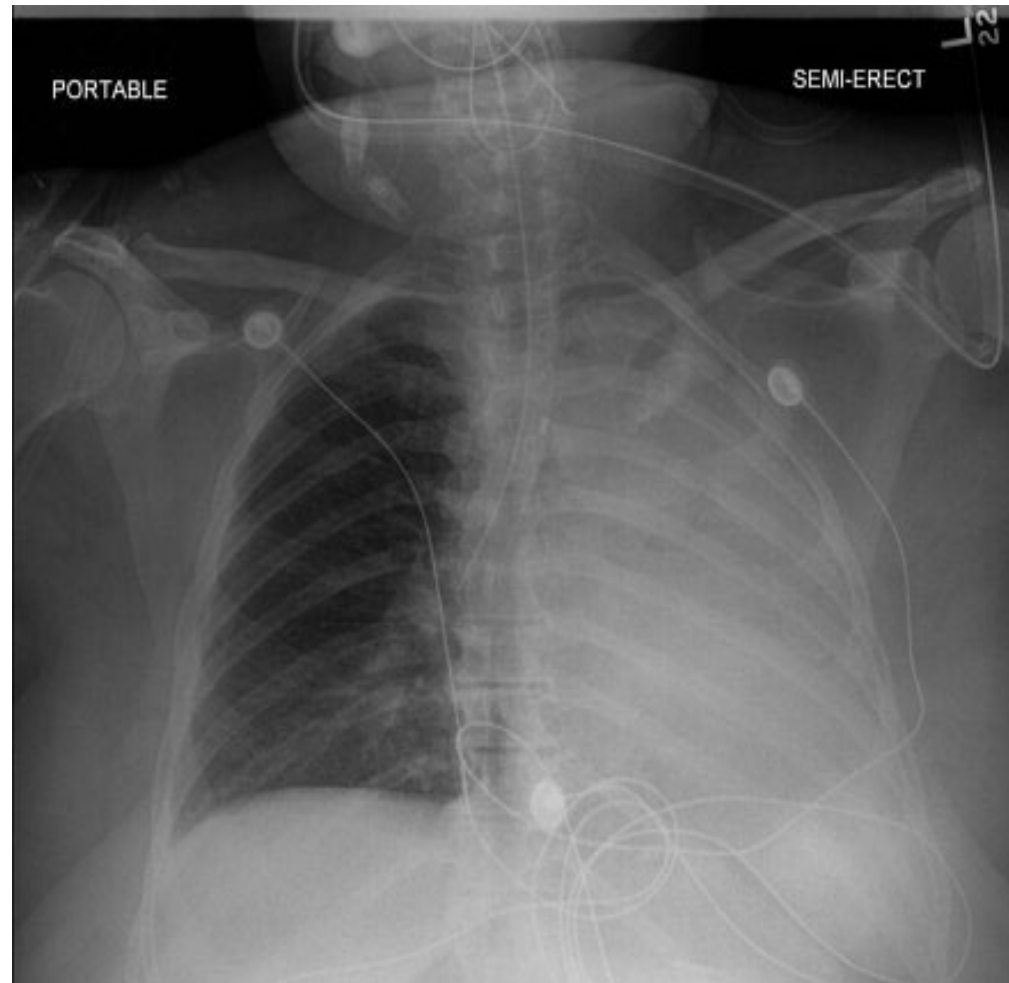
Suction

CXR/withdraw ETT 2-3cm



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# CASE NO 1: TROUBLE SHOOTING



# CASE NO 1: DISCUSSION

- How would this work in your facility?
- What extra resources would (or should?) be available?



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# Case NO 2: Presentation

- 38 year old male with known asthma presents to PRRH with acute onset respiratory distress.. Nil else significant in pmh.

- In ED: RR 35/min, audible wheeze and reduced air entry globally,  
SpO2 92% on 60L/min HFNC 60% O2  
CXR unremarkable

Minimal improvement after 3 x salbutamol and ipratropium nebs, MgSO4 and methylprednisolone. Looks tired.

Discussed with ICU IM physician at KRH – advised trial of NIV

ABG: pH 7.24, PaCO2 57, PaO2 89



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# CASE NO 2: APPROACH

Trajectory: when to intubate and ventilate in bronchospasm?  
anticipated problems on initiating ventilation

Timeframe: what are the impacts on local resources?

Disposition: what will happen to this patient after ventilation is initiated?



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# CASE NO 2: CLINICAL COURSE

- 38 year old male with known asthma presents to PRRH with acute onset respiratory distress.. Nil else significant in pmh.

Increasingly tired despite initially tolerating NIV at 10/5cmH2O

ABG: pH 7.24, PaCO2 57, PaO2 89

re-conference with KRH and UHNBC ICU:  
accepted for transfer to UHNBC



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# CASE NO 2: PREPARATION

Equipment: ventilator, gas supply, power supply, circuit, HMEF,  
monitoring, suction  
operating manual

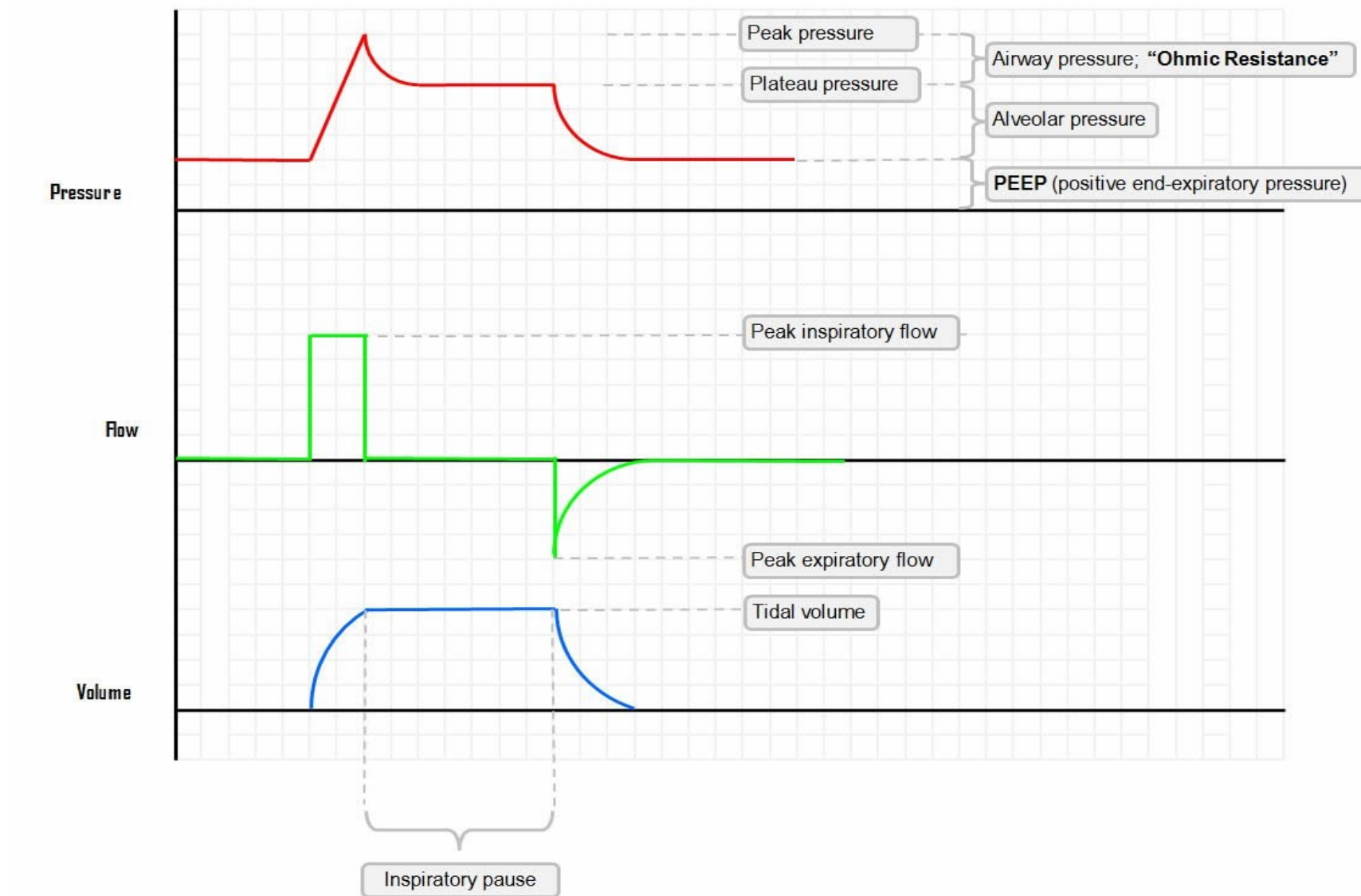
What are the initial ventilator settings?

How might this patient behave when I initiate ventilation?

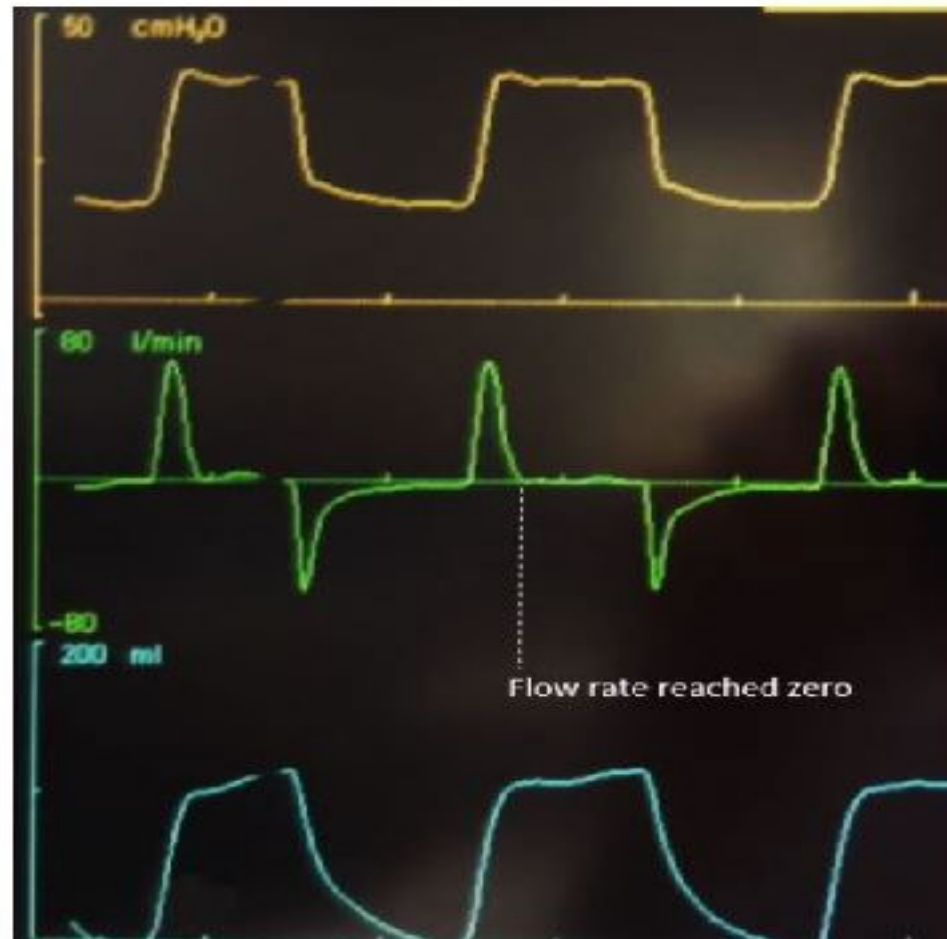


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# CASE NO 2 MICRO-TEACHING

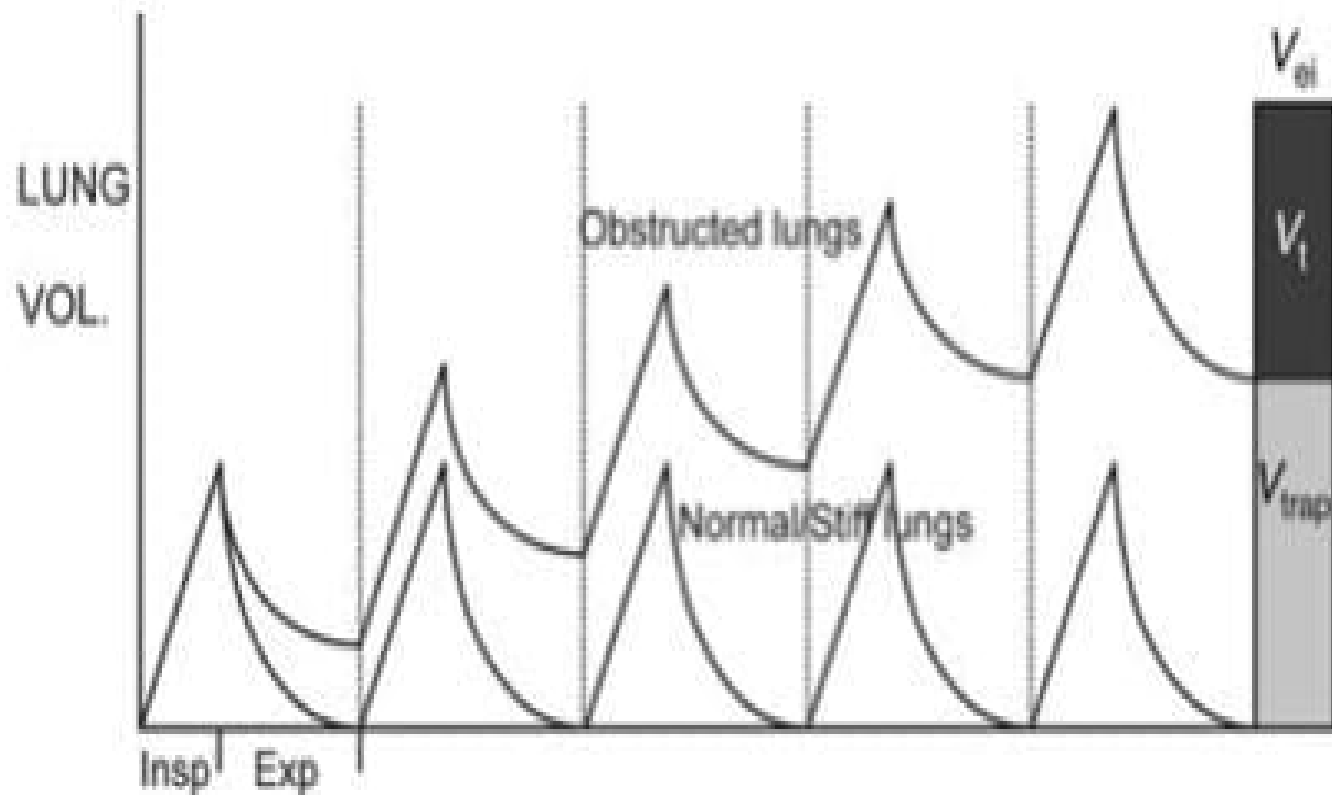


# CASE NO 2 MICRO-TEACHING



# CASE NO 2: MICRO-TEACHING:

DHI and auto PEEP





# CASE NO 2: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

I:E ratio 1:4 (or >) (Ti may be variable)

Short Ti (high inspiratory flow)

Close attention to ventilator waveforms and hemodynamics.

Vt 4-8ml/Kg IBW



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# CASE NO 2: INITIAL VENTILATOR SETTINGS

Paw will be high but Pplat less raised (unless DHI)

Tolerate hypercapnia – pH > 7.1 to 7.2 to start with

In event of worsening DHI, disconnect and allow full exhalation

Reduce RR to maintain Pplat < 25cmH<sub>2</sub>O

Peep set at 60-80% PEEPi



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# CASE NO 2: TROUBLE SHOOTING

High Peak Paw alarms – check Pplat – adjust alarms  
(Ppeak may be 50-80cmH<sub>2</sub>O)

Ventilator dis-synchrony – ensure adequate sedation and  
NMBD if needed.

May require near continuous nebulized beta2 agonist

Adjuncts: ketamine/aminophylline/epinephrine/sevoflurane



# CASE NO 2: TROUBLE SHOOTING

Bronchospasm can take days to resolve

Regular discussion with closest tertiary ICU pending transfer  
(may, rarely, require ECMO and alternative destination)

When safe, exclude other pathology (CT chest/PA, TTE, swabs)

Therapeutic bronchoscopy – can clear mucous plugs but also  
risk of exacerbating bronchospasm



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# CASE NO 2: DISCUSSION

- How would this work in your facility?
- What extra resources would (or should?) be available?



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# OTHER INDICATIONS FOR VENTILATION

Neurologic:            airway protection,  
                             opioid toxicity (hypoventilation)  
                             neuro-protection (eg raised ICP)

Procedural:            EGD, post-surgical,

Logistical:            transfer, severe agitation,

Severe shock and acidemia



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# POSITIONING

Always HoB at 30 degrees

Morbidly obese may need > head-up

Good-side down – semi-lateral



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# WEANING AND EXTUBATION

Transition to spontaneous mode – PSV

SBT – RSBI -  $> 105$

Neurologically capable of protecting airway

Cuff leak

Plan if fails



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# SUGGESTIONS:

Call early - call often. Ensure closed-loop communication  
NH – UHNBC/FSJH/KRH ICU, UHNBC RT

ABG after any significant change or before any major  
intervention

Don't forget endo-tracheal suction (but not too often)



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# RESOURCES & REFERENCES MENTIONED

- [https://www.hamilton-medical.com/en\\_CA/Academy/VenTrainer.html](https://www.hamilton-medical.com/en_CA/Academy/VenTrainer.html)
- Local tertiary ICU/RT support and educators
- <https://rccbc.ca/initiatives/rtvs/>
- <https://derangedphysiology.com/main/cicm-primary-exam/respiratory-system>



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# Q&A

POST YOUR QUESTIONS IN THE CHATBOX

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