

APRV ventilation: coming of age or had its day?

Oscillation can be harmful, proning is not always possible and ECMO is resource intensive. What is the optimal approach when faced with a patient with progressive, severe hypoxaemia and low compliance? Airway pressure release ventilation (APRV) is a mode of ventilation available on most if not all modern ventilators. Although definitive evidence is lacking, recent studies suggest it may have a role in selected patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).