

## **Intra-abdominal hypertension - Respiratory implications and ventilatory management**

Intra-abdominal hypertension (IAH) is defined as a sustained intra-abdominal pressure of more than 12 mmHg. Approximately one third of patients admitted to ICU will present with IAH and another 15% will develop IAH during their ICU stay. IAH is associated with renal and cardiorespiratory compromise.

IAH can increase atelectasis formation and reduce lung volumes, chest wall compliance and oxygenation. Mechanical ventilation is a challenge in patients with IAH. Higher PEEP levels may counteract the respiratory complications of IAH. However, this may increase airway pressures, over-distension and cause hemodynamic compromise in patients with IAH.

This presentation will review the effects of IAH on cardio-respiratory function and make some recommendations on ventilation strategies in patients with IAH.