



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

Airway pressure release ventilation on veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)

Ventilación con liberación de presión en la vía aérea y membrana de oxigenación extracorpórea (ECMO) con configuración veno-venosa

Ruben Martín-Latorre*, Laura de Rivas-Alcover, Àngela Poquet-Poquet

Unidad de Medicina Intensiva, Hospital Universitari i Politécnic La Fe, València, Spain

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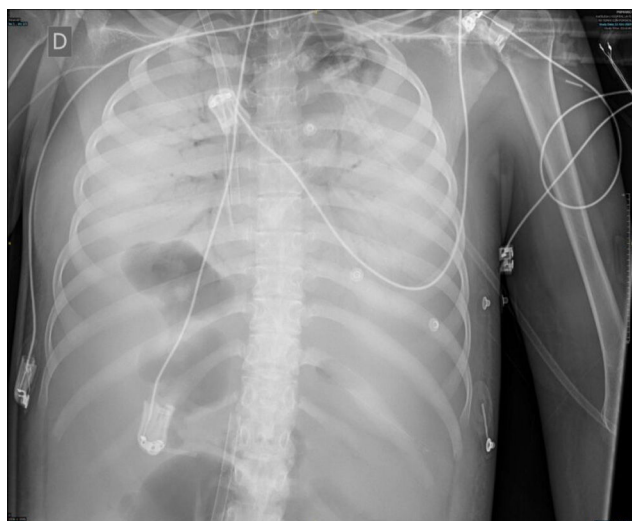


Figure 1 Day 0.

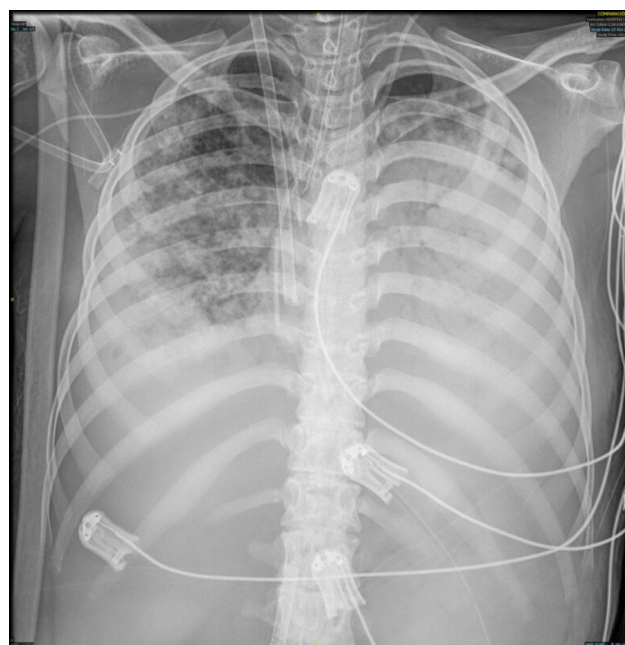


Figure 2 Day 2.

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* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: martin_rublat@gva.es (R. Martín-Latorre).

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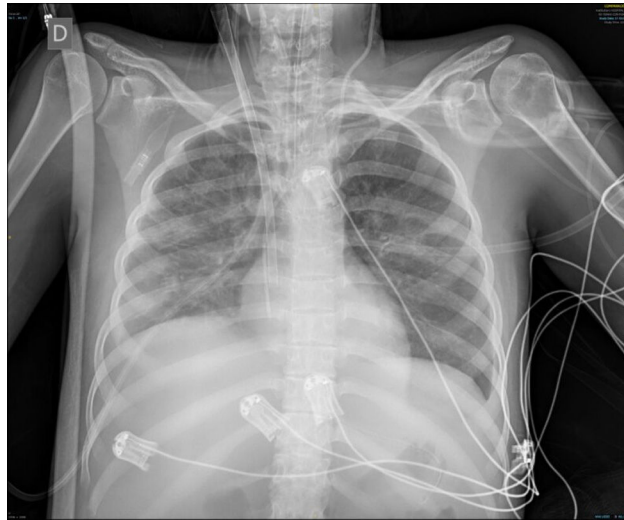


Figure 3 Day 5.

A 19-year-old woman, with a past medical history of Steinert's myotonic dystrophy, intubated due to severe respiratory distress after an exploratory laparotomy for intestinal pseudo-obstruction. In tracheal aspirate, *Escherichia coli* without resistance mechanisms. Very poor pulmonary mechanics (compliance < 2 mL/cmH₂O) and no response to prone positioning, veno-venous ECMO is cannulated, and given the high airway pressures with 4 mL/kg of ideal body weight, ventilation is switched to airway pressure release ventilation (APRV): high pressure 15 cmH₂O; high time 6 s; low time 0.3 s. Initially 10 mL of exhaled volume. Radiographic progression is shown in the images ([Fig. 1](#): day 0; [Fig. 2](#): day 2; [Fig. 3](#): day 5). This case is an example of how APRV ventilation while ensuring gas exchange with ECMO can be useful in the management of patients with refractory respiratory distress.

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Declaration of competing interest

None declared.