

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Effects of different levels of end-expiratory pressure on lung recruitment and protection in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome

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Overview: It is still controversial as to the implementation of higher positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). This study compared the lower and higher PEEP in patients with ARDS to investigate the relationship between the recruited lung volume by higher PEEP and relevant independent variables and to estimate of the percentage of potentially recruitable lung by higher PEEP.

Conclusions: The potential for alveolar recruitment may vary among the ARDS population and the higher PEEP levels should be limited to recruiters.