

CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Prehospital use of CPAP: Positive pressure = Positive patient outcomes

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Overview: When used correctly, CPAP has been shown to alleviate symptoms and decrease the need for intubation for patients with CHF, COPD and asthma.

Conclusions: CPAP does not replace intubation, but rather is a less-invasive means of providing respiratory support while medications work to correct the underlying cause of distress. It is safe, portable and easy to apply.