

# COVID-19 pneumonia

## Time course, monitoring and treatment

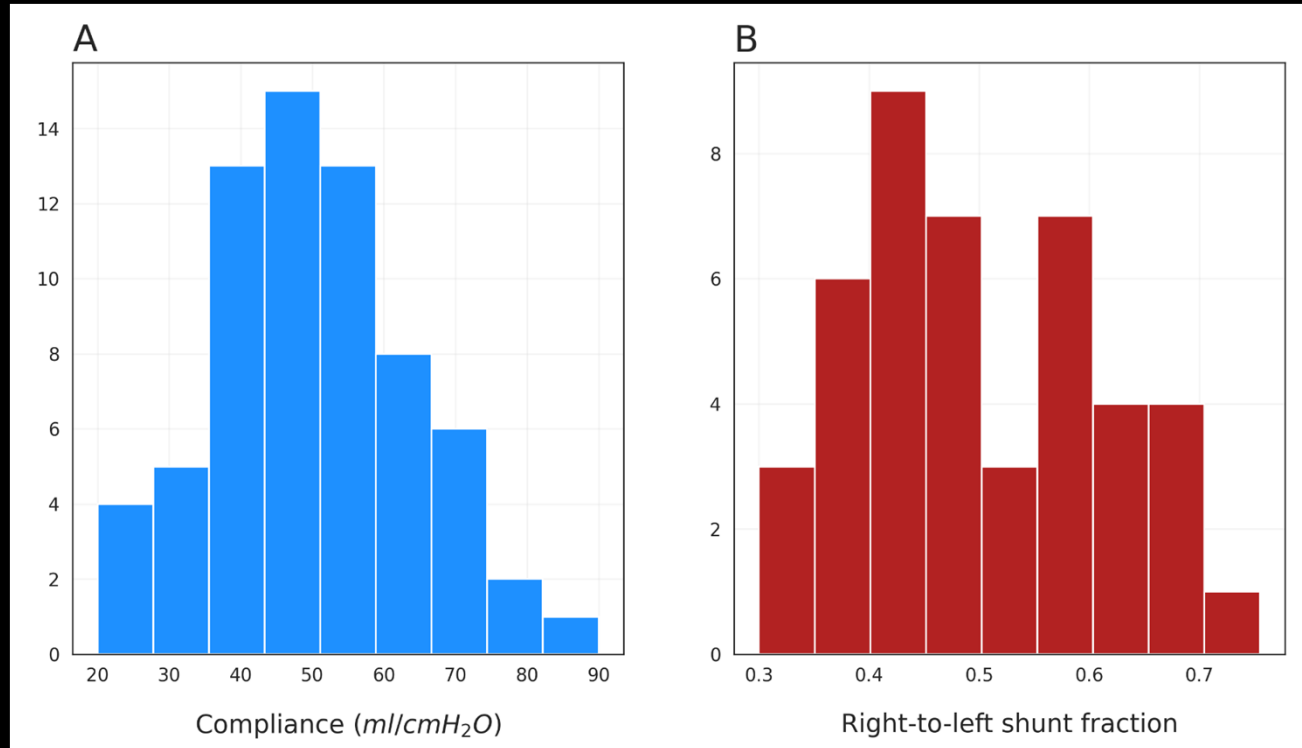
2020



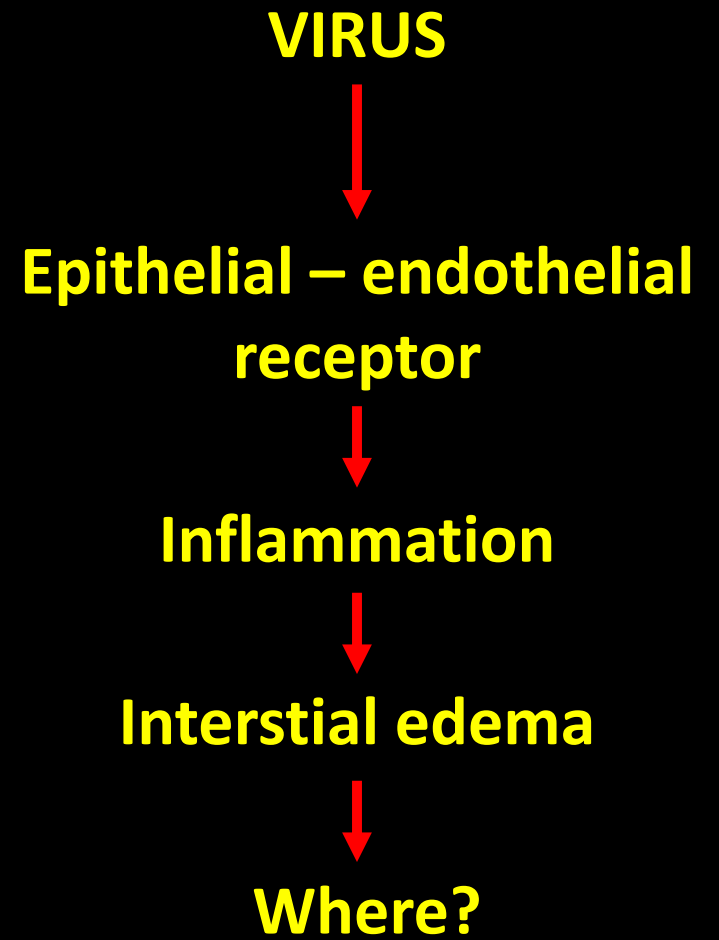
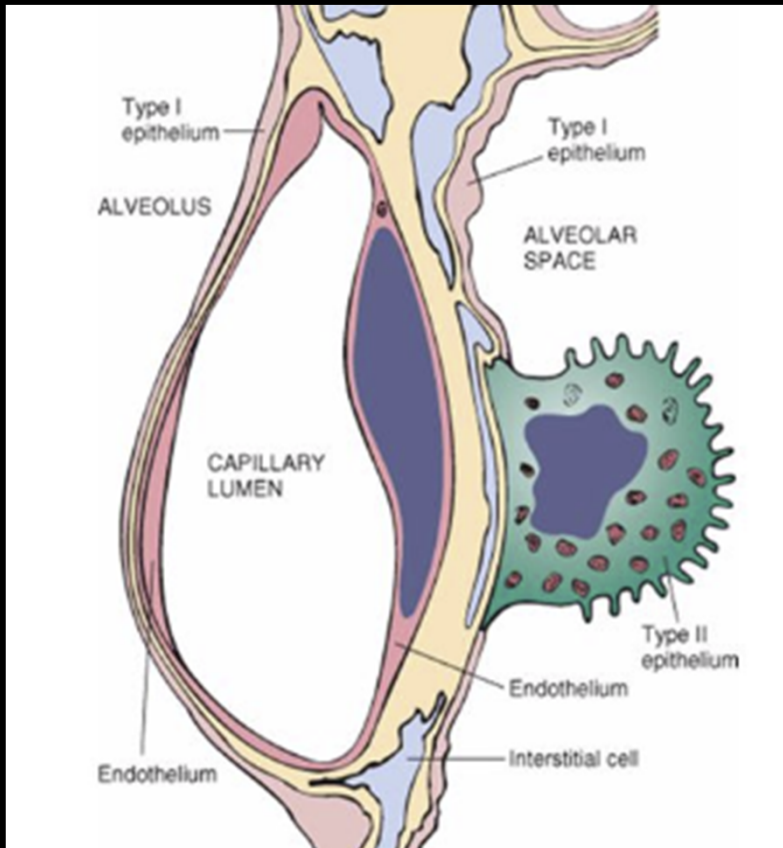
Luciano Gattinoni, MD, FRCP  
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
Germany



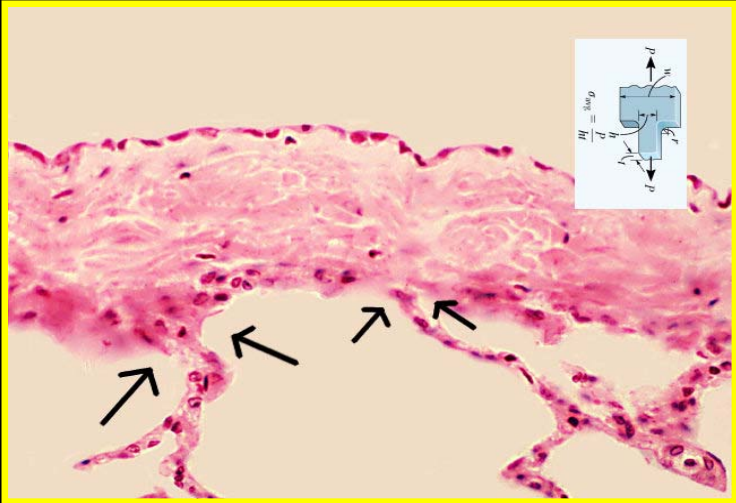
# The main findings



Covid-19 Does Not Lead to a “Typical” Acute  
Respiratory Distress Syndrome  
L. Gattinoni et al, AJRCCM 2020



# Inflammation + focused stress



Peripheral densities

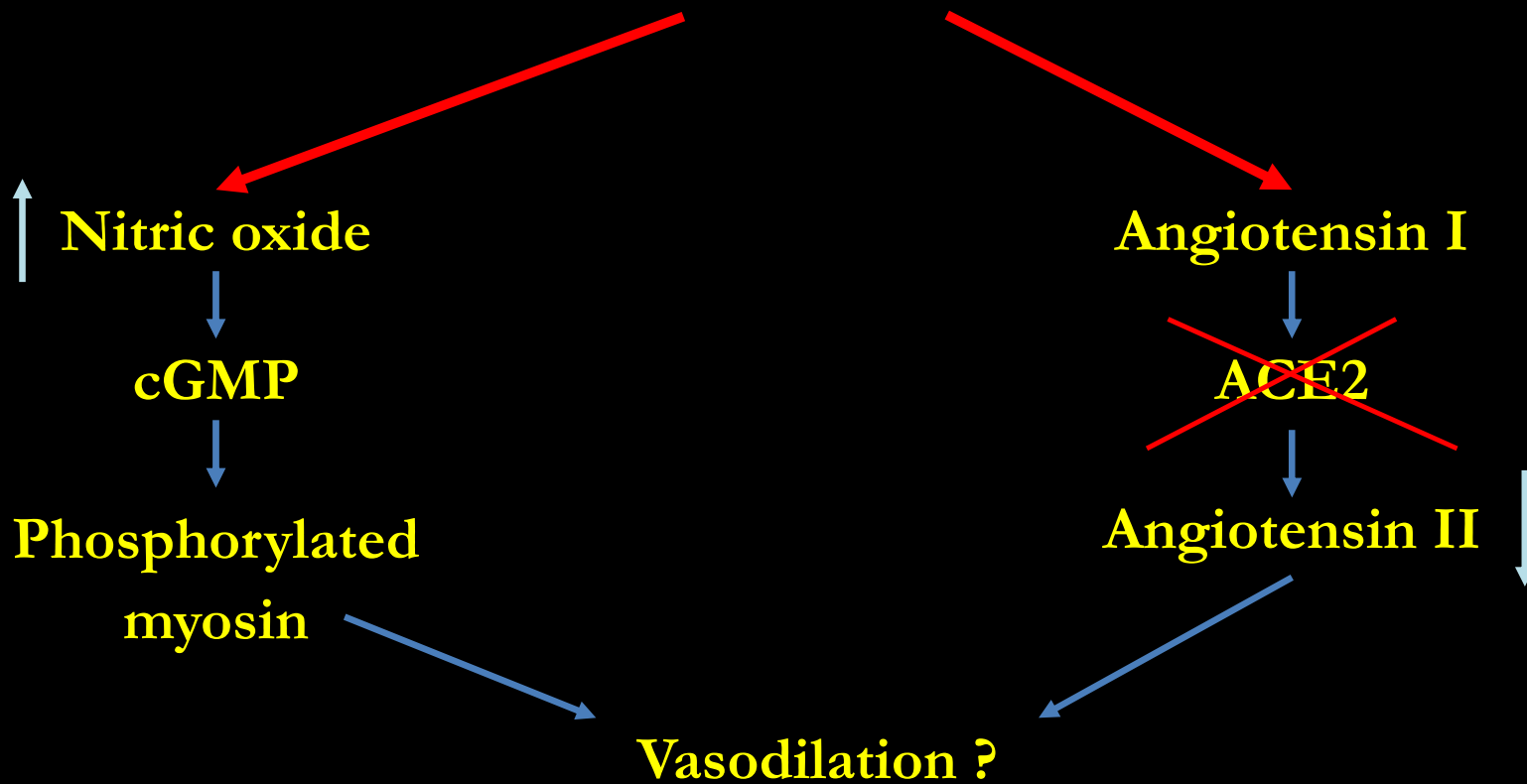
**END EXPIRATION**



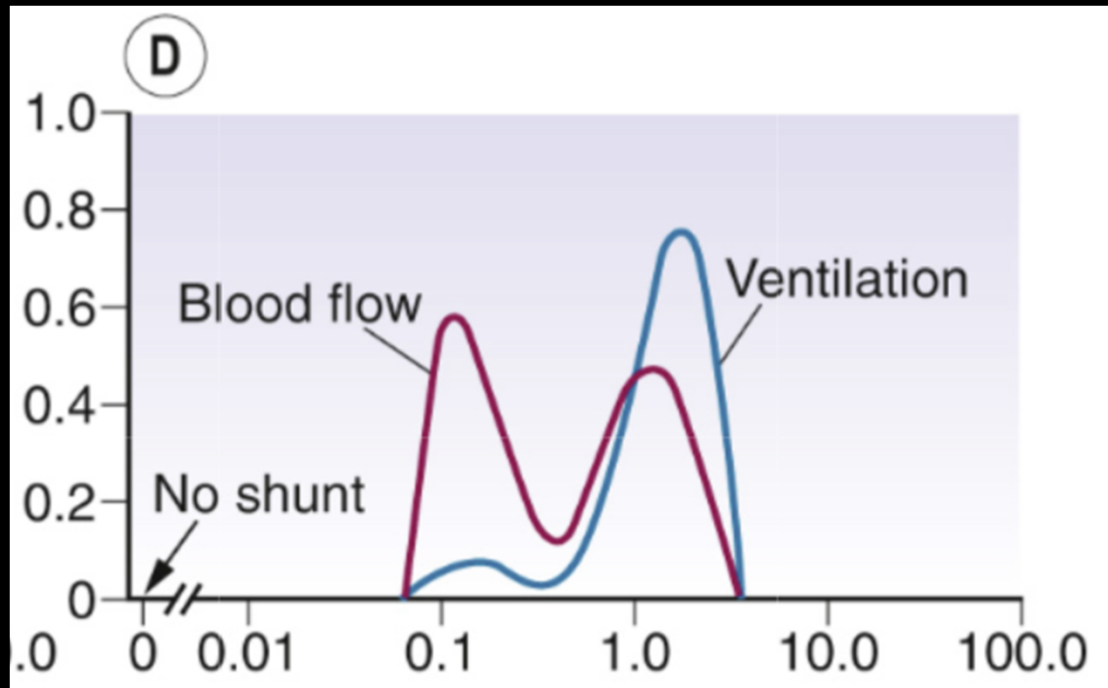
**Time course of VILI development**  
**In 40 hours**

**Lung Inhomogeneities and Time Course of Ventilator  
induced Mechanical Injuries**  
Cressoni et al,  
Anesthesiology 2015

# Lung vasoplegia (undetermined mechanism)



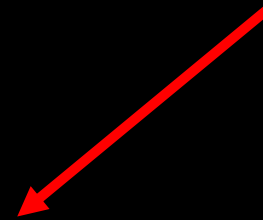
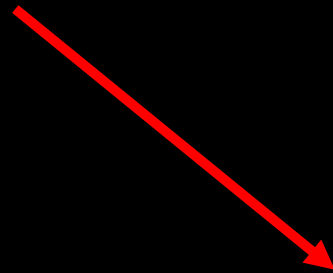
# Gravity dependent VA/Q mismatch



**VA/Q mismatch**

**Hypoxemia**

**Undetermined  
factors**



**Increased respiratory drive**



**VE - TV increase**



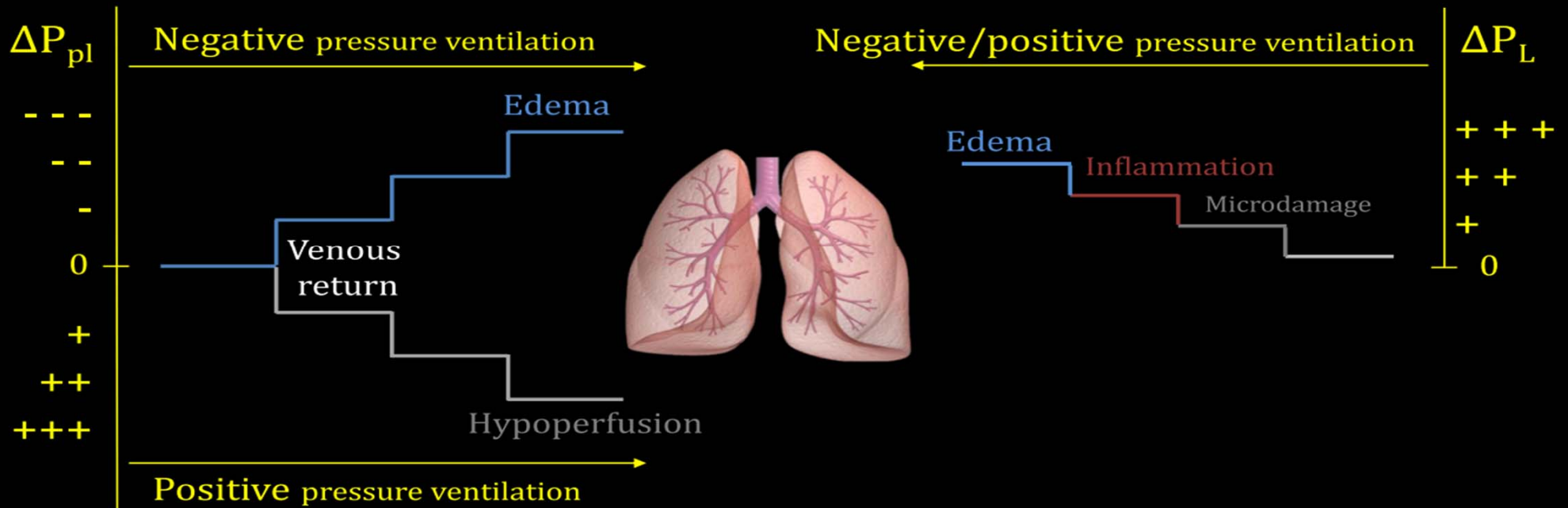
Negative

# Ventilation

Positive

$$\Delta P_L = 0 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O} - (-\Delta P_{pl})$$

$$\Delta P_L = \Delta P_{aw}^{+++} - (\Delta P_{pl}^+)$$

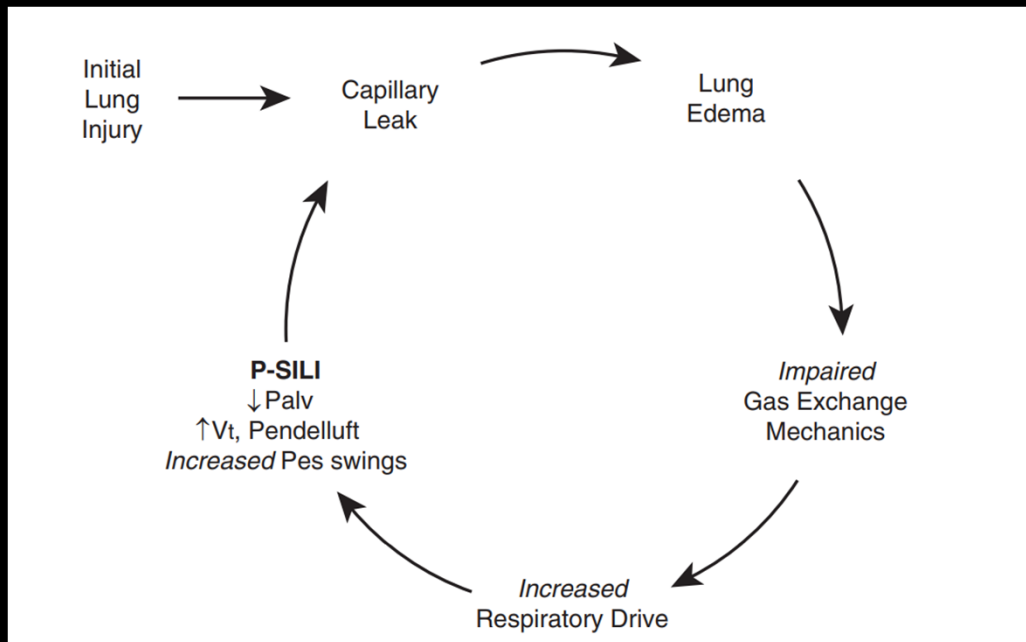


**Positive pressure respiration and its application to the treatment of acute pulmonary edema**

L. Barach,  
Annals of Internal Medicine, 1938

**Acute Respiratory Failure Following Pharmacologically Induced Hyperventilation: An Experimental Animal Study**

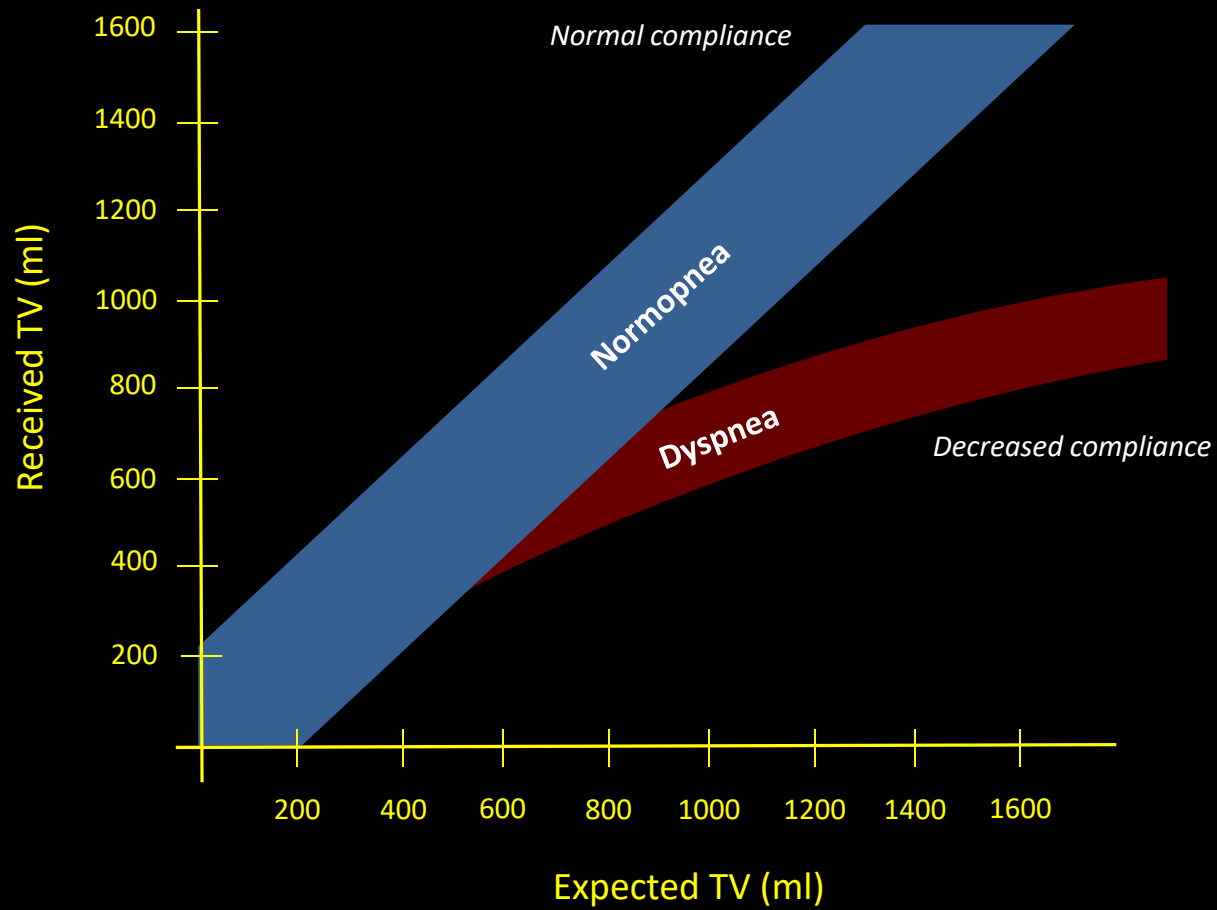
D. Mascheroni et al,  
ICM, 1988



**Mechanical Ventilation to Minimize Progression of Lung Injury in Acute Respiratory Failure**

L. Brochard, A. Slutsky, A. Pesenti  
AJRCCM 2017

# When does the patient become dyspneic?



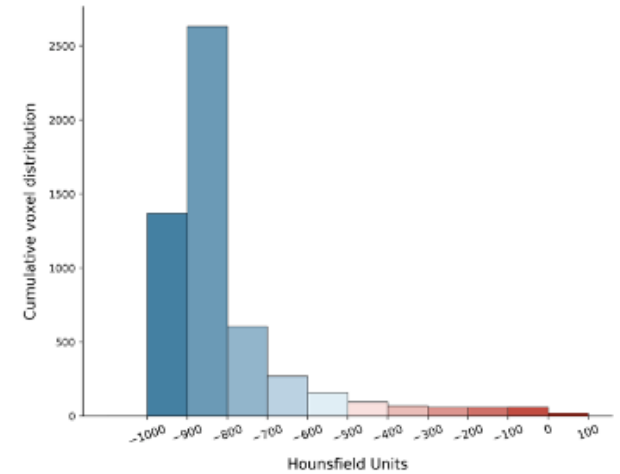
7 days  
spontaneously  
breathing

O<sub>2</sub> mask, CPAP,  
NIV

A



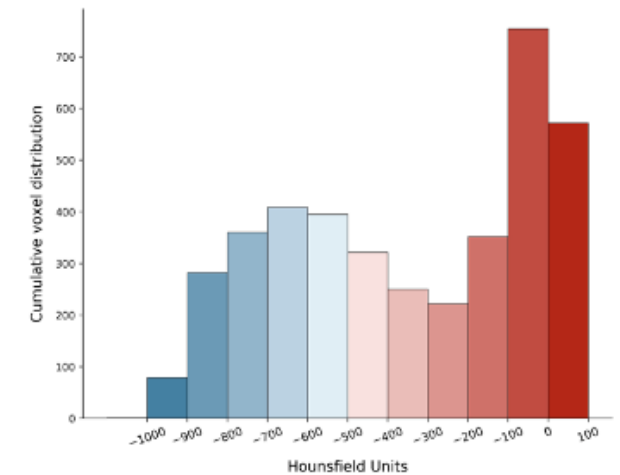
PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub>  
95 mmHg



B



PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub>  
84 mmHg



COVID-19 pneumonia: different  
respiratory treatment for different  
phenotypes?  
L. Gattinoni et al, ICM 2020 (*in press*)

**Disease stage**

**Possible interventions**

**Pre-infection**



**Community medicine...**



**Virus infection**



**Antiviral drugs...**



**Inflammatory reaction**



**Corticoids, anti IL-6...**

Disease stage

Possible interventions

Vasoplegia



NO, almitrine, CO<sub>2</sub> ...



Hypoxemia



FiO<sub>2</sub>, CPAP, NIV, Prone position...



Respiratory drive



Opioids, sedatives...

**Negative pressure**

**Viral biology:**  
Micro/macro thrombosis,

**Assess and control**



**Anticoagulation ?**

**Progression of the disease**

**What can we do?**



## Negative intrathoracic pressure

- **How to assess** 
  - **Esophageal pressure**
  - **Surface electromyography**
  - **Clinical signs**
- **How to control** 
  - **CPAP?**
  - **NIV?**
  - **Mechanical ventilation**



# Non invasive support

## Pro

- Increase oxygenation
- May decrease the Ppl swings

## Con

- Increase PaCO<sub>2</sub>
- May not decrease effort
- Right ventricular failure
- Acute Kidney Injury

# How I set the ventilator

- **Mode**
- **FiO<sub>2</sub>**
- **Tidal Volume**
- **Respiratory rate**
- **PEEP**

*Remember that it is  
a long lasting disease*

# 1. Which patient am I treating?

**Type L**



**Type H**



# 1. Which patient am I treating?

## Type L

- Low elastance
- Low VA/Q
- Low lung weight
- Low recruitability

## Type H

- High elastance
- High shunt
- High lung weight
- High recruitability

# Mechanical ventilation

## Type L

Sedation and muscle relax

- **Mode:** Volume Controlled Ventilation Why?
- **FiO<sub>2</sub>:** high as needed Why?
- **Tidal Volume:** even > than 6 ml/kg Why?
- **Respiratory rate:** try < 20 bpm Why?
- **PEEP:** 8-10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O Why?
- **Prone position:** only as a rescue Why?

## Mechanical ventilation

## Type L

Sedation and muscle relax

In these high compliance patients ( $> 50 \text{ ml/cmH}_2\text{O}$ ) the plateau, driving pressure and mechanical power levels are well below the “classical” severe ARDS

# Mechanical ventilation

Sedation and muscle relax

## Type H

- **Mode:** Volume Controlled Ventilation Why?
- **FiO<sub>2</sub>:** high as needed Why?
- **Tidal Volume:** possibly 6 ml/kg Why?
- **Respiratory rate:** to stay < 60 mmHg PaCO<sub>2</sub> Why?
- **PEEP:** possibly < 15 cmH<sub>2</sub>O Why?
- **Prone position:** daily Why?

## Mechanical ventilation

## Type H

Sedation and muscle relax

In these low compliance patients ( $< 50 \text{ ml/cmH}_2\text{O}$ ) the plateau, driving pressure and mechanical power levels are the same of the “classical” severe ARDS



# Weaning

**COVID-19 pneumonia lasts long,  
early weaning is problematic**

## Remember

1. More than 50% do not have a “classical” ARDS
2. It's a long course disease
3. 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O of PEEP, sedation and especially  
patience is likely the best we can offer