

**A NON-INVASIVE METHOD TO IMPROVE OXYGENATION IN PATIENTS WITH ARDS - VENTILATION IN THE PRONE POSITION.**

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The prime objective in treating patients with the Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is to achieve adequate oxygenation. If traditional techniques fail, we may need to resort to more invasive means to improve oxygenation, for example, ECMO. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether turning such patients to the PRONE position would improve oxygenation. Two patients with neutropaenic sepsis developed ARDS requiring mechanical ventilation. Their oxygenation did not improve despite using pressure control and inverse ratio mode ventilation with high FiO<sub>2</sub>. Both patients were then turned to the prone position. Oxygen saturation was recorded by pulse oximetry. Both patients showed a definite improvement of oxygen saturation, one from 92% to 97% and the other from 73% to 97% within four hours. This improvement continued for another two hours after the patient was turned from the prone back to supine position (see table). We conclude that patients with ARDS may benefit with improved oxygen saturation by turning them from the supine to prone position. Further studies need to be carried out in a larger number of patients to fully study this beneficial effect and to elucidate the pathophysiology of this observation.

**CHANGES IN OXYGEN SATURATION AFTER PATIENT IS PUT IN THE PRONE POSITION.**

Time in prone position / h		0	1	2	4
Oxygen Saturation / %	Patient I	92	93	97	97
	Patient II	73	78	80	97