



# PATIENT VENTILATOR DYSSYNCHRONY

GEORGE SAVIO CHALAM  
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST  
SUHRC



# DISCUSSION

Introduction

Phase variable

Dyssynchrony

# INTRODUCTION

Mechanical ventilation is a commonly used intervention in the ICU.

Decrease work of breathing and maintain adequate levels of gas exchange.

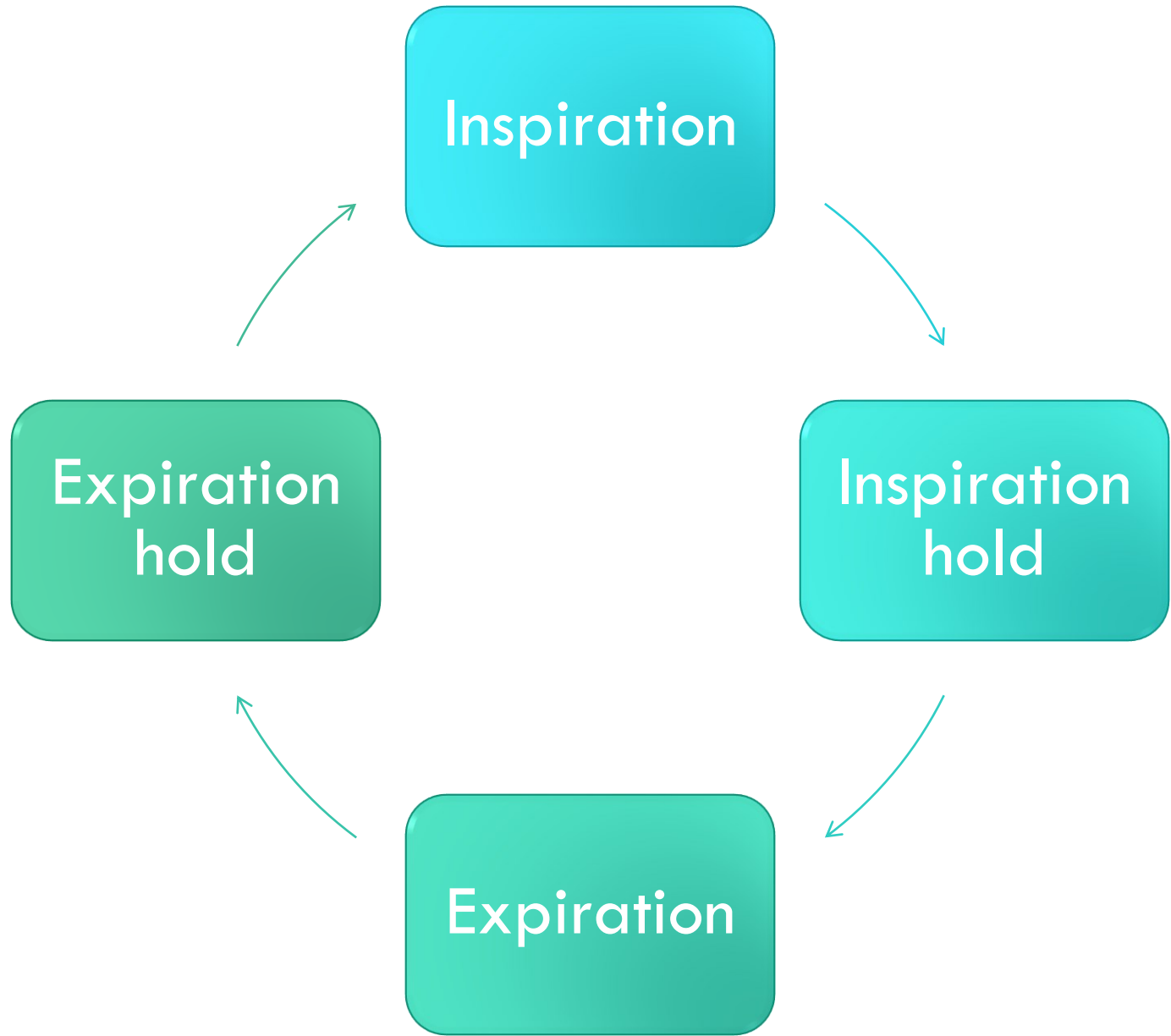
Patient-Ventilator Dyssynchrony (PVD) is often described as a patient “fighting” the ventilator.

Patient-Ventilator Dyssynchrony (PVD) can be defined as a failure of synchronize the provided breath support from a ventilator with the patient’s spontaneous effort.

Occur due to: inappropriate time and delivered parameter.

PVD leads to:

- i. Patient discomfort
- ii. Lung injury
- iii. Over sedation
- iv. Increase ventilator days.



# WHAT WE CONTROL

## Control variable

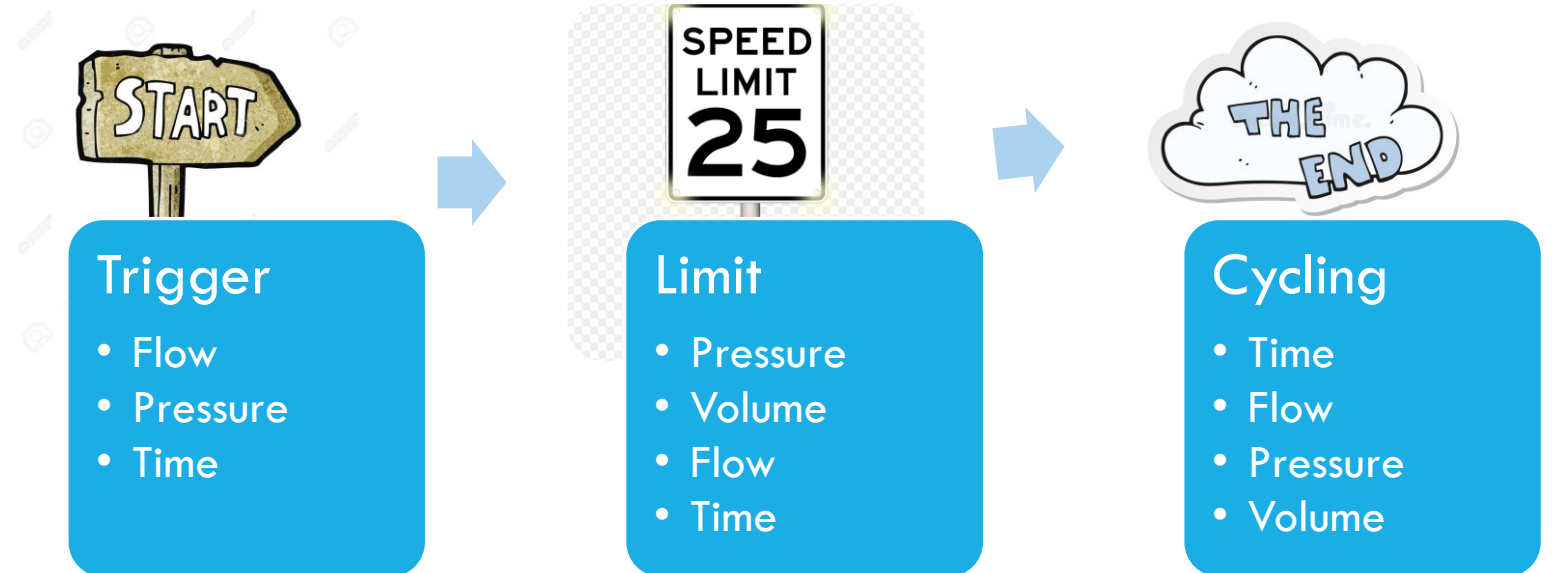
Pressure

Volume

Flow (indirect)

Time

## Phase variable



# DYSSYNCHRONY

Estimated occurrence of PVD is reported to range from 10% to 85%.

Dyssynchrony occurs through inappropriate trigger sensitivity, limit, and cycling.

## Flow dyssync

- Inadequate
- Overshoot

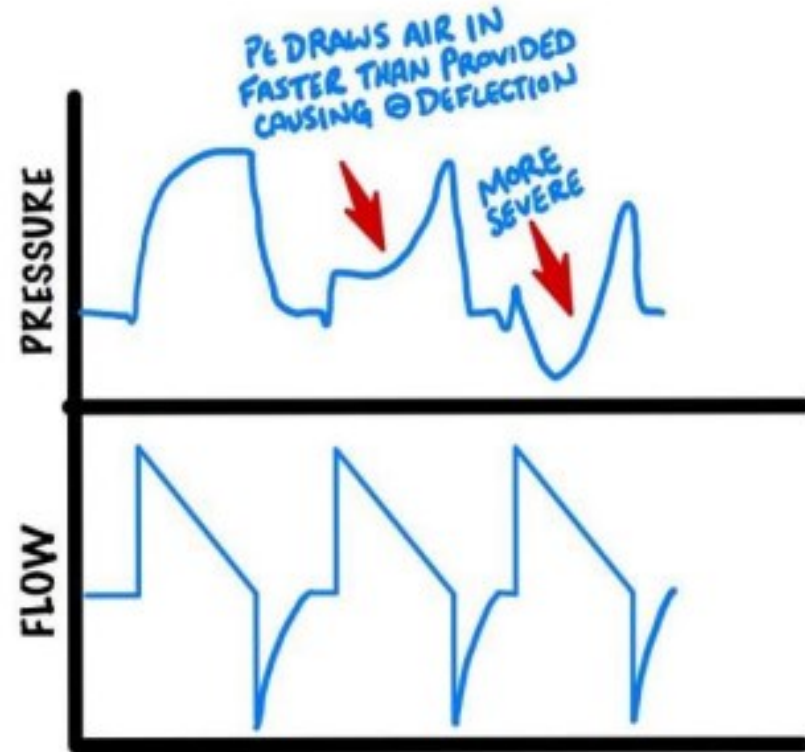
## Trigger dyssync

- Auto triggering
- Failed triggering

## Cycle dyssync

- Early cycling
- Delayed cycling

# FLOW DYSSYNCHRONY



## Inadequate flow

when the patients flow demand is more than the ventilator is set up to provide. (flow hunger).

increased respiratory fatigue and oxygen consumption.

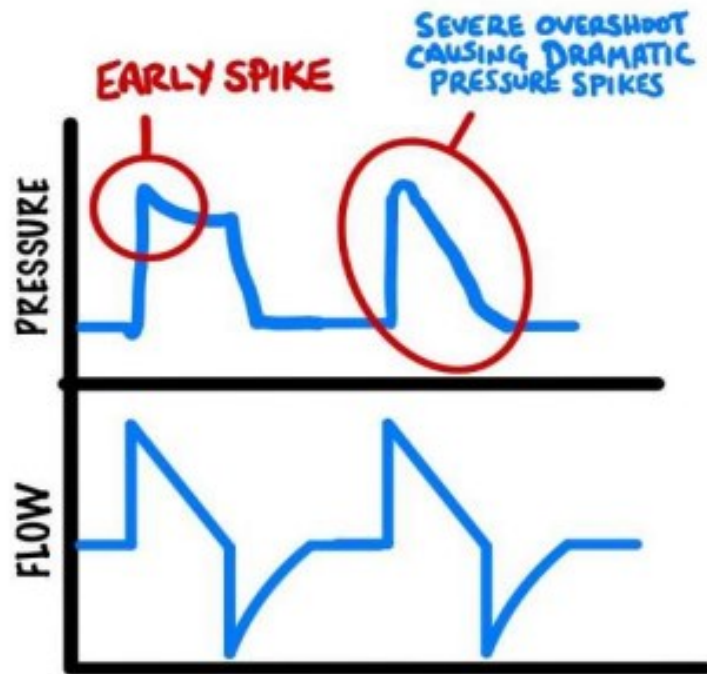
increase in transpulmonary pressure, developing lung injury

| Cause of inadequate flow                  | Corrective measures  |
|---|--|
| I. Inadequate flow settings on ventilator | VCV –<br>I. Increase inspiratory flow –                          |
| II. Fixed flow targeted breaths           | II. Switch to pressure modes as flow varies with patient effort. |
| III. Acute respiratory failure            | III. Pressure Modes - Shorten rise time                          |
| IV. Increased respiratory drive           | IV. Address underlying cause - Pain, fever, etc.                 |
| V. Fever Pain                             |  |





# FLOW DYSSYNCHRONY



## Overshoot flow

ventilator is set to deliver a breath faster than the patient desires.

Recognition: An early spike in the pressure scalar is observed during the inspiratory phase.

patient discomfort, artificially shortens the breath.

## Causes of Flow Overshoot

## Corrective Measures

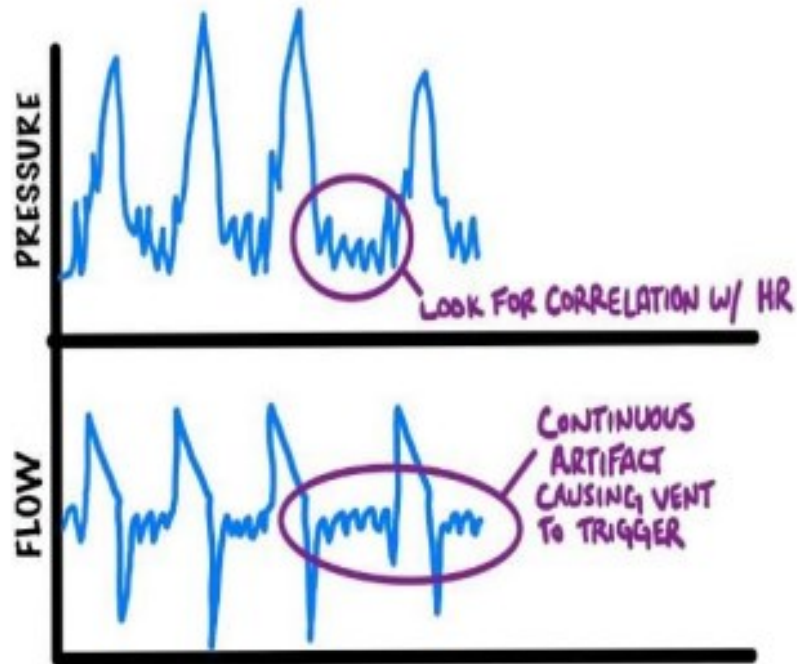
Ventilator flow exceeds what patient wants –

- I. Volume Modes: Flow set too high.
- II. Pressure Modes: ITime too fast or Inspiratory pressure too high.

- I. VCV - Decrease flow
- II. Pressure Modes - Lengthen rise time



# TRIGGER DYSSYNCHRONY



## Auto trigger:

which occurs when **unwanted breaths are repeatedly delivered** due to a false activation of the ventilator

commonly observed in **flow sensed triggers** as they can be more sensitive.

Recognition: Continuous baseline artifact seen in the setting of rapid respiratory rate

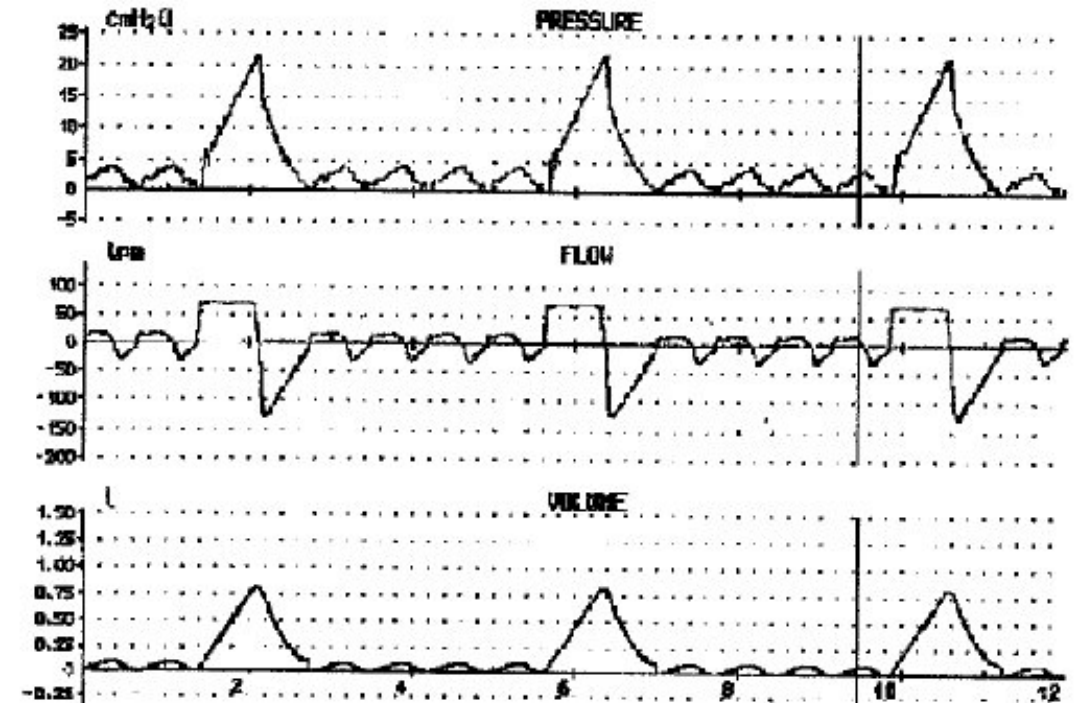
respiratory alkalosis, failed spontaneous breathing trials leading to increased sedation, and prolonged course of mechanical ventilation.

## Causes of Autotriggering

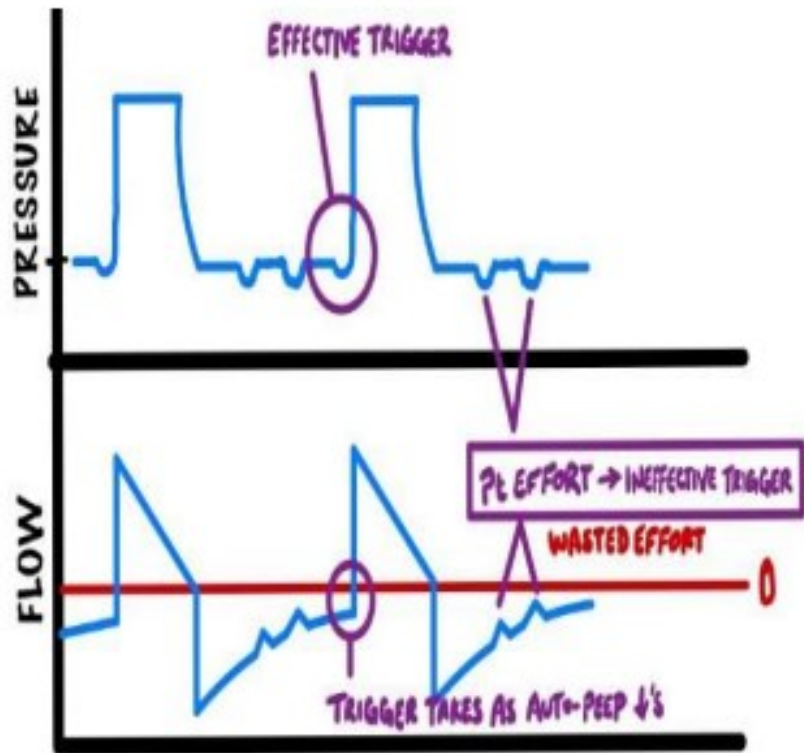
## Corrective Measures

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| I. Cardiac oscillations           | I. Eliminate source: remove leaks and excess fluid |
| II. Air leak/ Fluid in circuit    | II. Switch from flow to pressure sensor            |
| III. Breath trigger too sensitive | III. Decrease sensitivity of trigger               |

# Auto-triggering from leak



# TRIGGER DYSSYNCHRONY



## Failed trigger:

usually occurs because of the patient's insufficient respiratory effort to trigger the ventilator, resulting in a wasted effort from ventilator.

Also occur in response to elevated intrinsic PEEP (Auto PEEP).

Recognition: Intrinsic PEEP manifests itself in the expiratory flow not returning to zero before the next breath is delivered.

respiratory muscle fatigue, dynamic hyperinflation, reduced venous return, and cardiovascular collapse.

## Causes of Trigger Failure

- I. Intrinsic PEEP (AutoPEEP):  
Most common cause of trigger failure: -
- II. Obstructive lung diseases –
- III. Large tidal volumes -  
Rapid respiratory rates
- IV. Inappropriate Trigger settings: - Flow Trigger -  
Pressure Trigger
- V. Respiratory muscle weakness
- VI. Decreased neural drive

## Corrective Measures

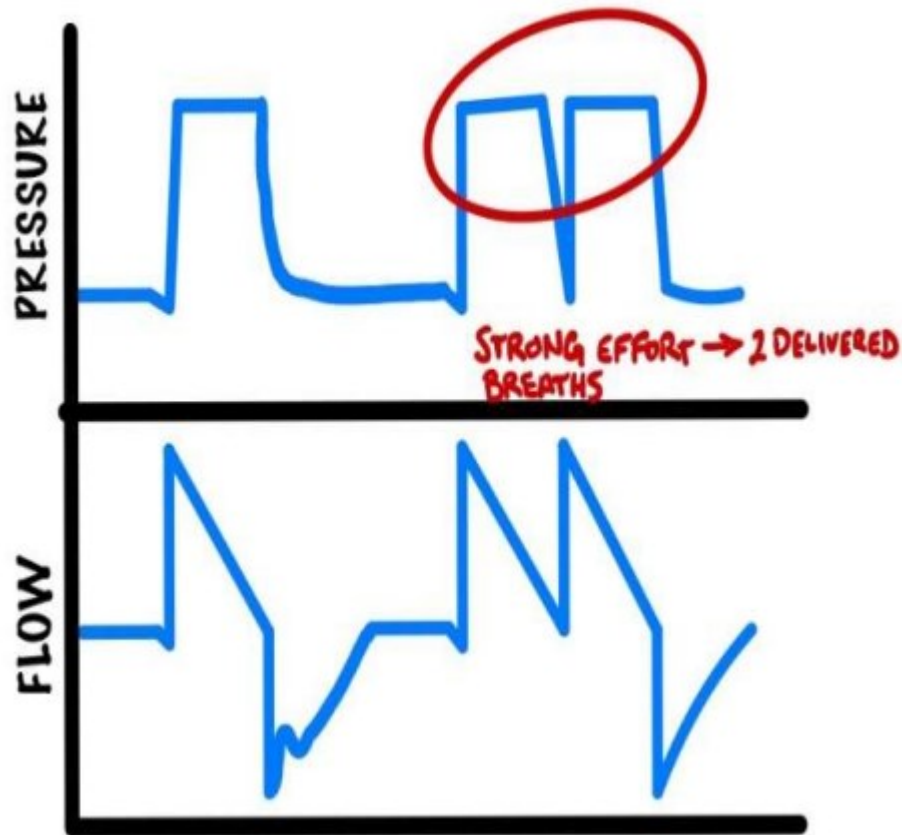
- I. Decreasing Intrinsic PEEP  
- Reduce respiratory rate - Decrease inspiratory time –
- II. Reduce work of triggering ventilator -  
Increase extrinsic PEEP
- III. Increase trigger sensitivity
- IV. Consider removal or reduction of sedation, neuromuscular blockade, and neural drive depressants.





Trigger failure

# CYCLE DYSSYNCHRONY



## Pre- mature cycling:

Also known as breath stacking or double triggering,

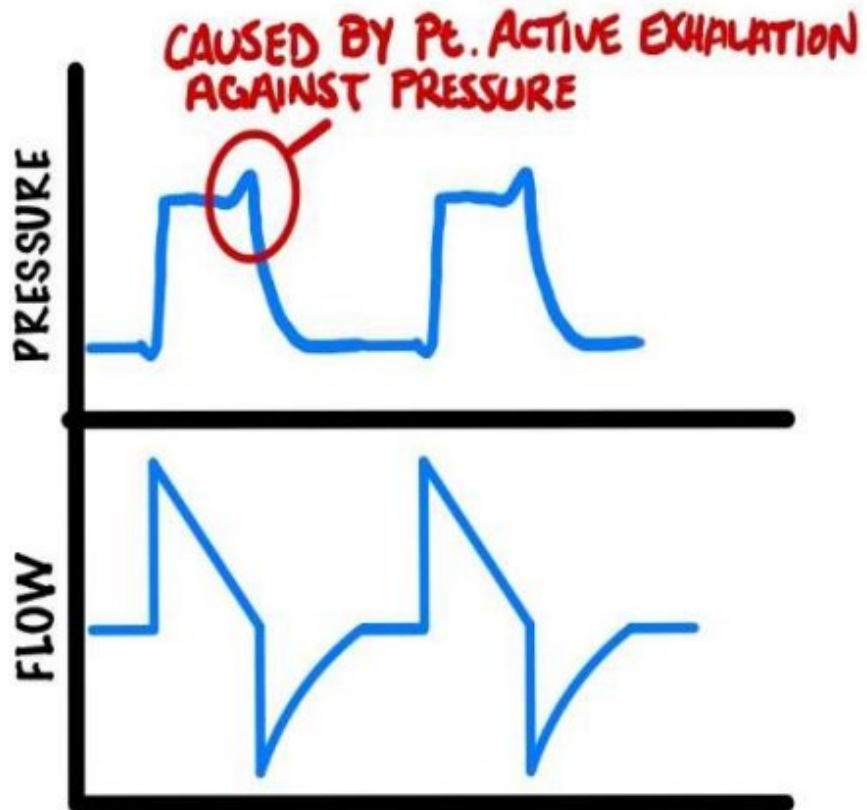
occurs due to an **imbalance between the ventilator I-time**, tidal volume, or **flow being less** than that of the patient.

Tachypneic, strong contraction of the diaphragm, **patient I-time is longer than the machine's I-time** the ventilator deliver an untimely second breath.



| Causes of Premature Cycling  | Corrective Measures                            |
|--|--|
| I. The ventilator I-Time is shorter than the patients intrinsic I-Time.  | I. VCV - Increase tidal volume - Decrease flow |
| II. Prolonged patient effort is sensed by the ventilator as a new breath | II. Pressure Modes - Increase set I-Time       |
| III. Low tidal volume in VCV   |  |

# CYCLE DYSSYNCHRONY



## Delayed cycling

opposite of premature cycling

the machine's I-time is longer than the patient's natural I-time.

The flow scalar is typically unchanged. end inspiratory pressure spikes are observed denoting patient effort to exhale prematurely.

Auto PEEP can develop due to longer than needed I-times.

## Causes of Delayed Cycling

- I. The ventilator I-Time is more than the patients intrinsic I-Time.
- II. Large tidal volumes in VCV
- III. Long set I-time in PCV

## Corrective Measures

- I. VCV - Decrease tidal volume - Increase flow
- II. Pressure Modes - Decrease set I-Time



# ALARM DYSSYNCHRONY

- PROBLEMS WITH ALARM SETTINGS ON MACHINE

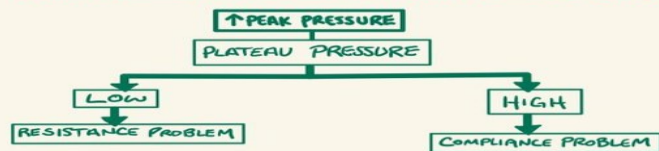
## PEAK PRESSURE APNEA



- EARLY TERMINATION OF INSPIRATORY FLOW BEFORE FULL V<sub>T</sub> ACHIEVED

| WHAT CAUSES IT?   | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|---|--|
| - SEEN IN VC AS ↑ PEAK PRESSURE CAUSES TERMINATION OF BREATH DELIVERY | - ↑ PEAK PRESSURE ALARM SETTINGS<br>- DETERMINE PLATEAU PRESSURE<br>- COMPLIANCE VS RESISTANCE<br>- FIX UNDERLYING ISSUE |

\* PEAK PRESSURE GOING OFF AROUND 40cmH<sub>2</sub>O CAUSING LOW TIDAL VOLUMES



# CYCLE DYSSYNCHRONY - PROBLEMS ENDING THE BREATH

## EARLY CYCLING "BREATH STACKING"

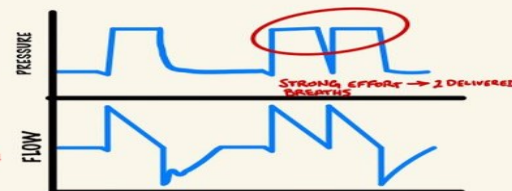
BREATH ENDS AS P<sub>L</sub> STILL TAKING BREATH

| WHAT CAUSES IT?   | HOW DO I FIX IT?  |
|---|---|
| I-TIME (SET ON MACHINE) IS LESS THAN P <sub>L</sub> INTRINSIC I-TIME<br>* PROMPTED P <sub>L</sub> EFFORT = MAKING SENSING NEW EFFORT AS BREATH ENDS | - VC: ↑ V <sub>T</sub> , CAN ↓ FLOW (BUT MAY CAUSE FLOW STALLATION)<br>- PC: ↑ SET I-TIME |

\* DOUBLE STACKING CAUSES V<sub>T</sub> AND INSPIRATORY PRES. THAT FAR EXCEEDS SET PARAMETERS  
- ↑ LUNG INJURY

REVERSE TRIGGERING: VENT DELIVERED BREATH TRIGGERS A P<sub>L</sub> INITIATED BREATH

- UNCLEAR ETIOLOGY MAY BE DUE TO REFLEX DIAPHRAGM STIMULATION
- MC IF DEEPLY SEDATED / COMATOSE
- THIS CAN OBTAIN NERVE EXAM
- ABSENCE OF INITIAL BREATH BEING P<sub>L</sub> TRIGGERED HELPS TO DISTINGUISH EARLY VS REVERSE
- FIX WITH:
  - SWITCH TO PSV
  - ↓ SEDATION
  - ↓ RESP RATE
  - PARALYTIC (IF REFRACTORY/HARMFUL)

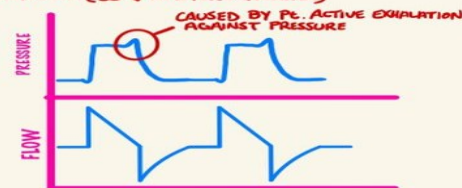


## DELAYED CYCLING

- I-TIME (SET ON MACHINE) IS MORE THAN P<sub>L</sub> "INTRINSIC I-TIME" → MACHINE BREATH CONTINUES LONGER THAN P<sub>L</sub> BREATH

| WHAT CAUSES IT?  | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|--|--|
| VENT I-TIME > PATIENT NATURAL I-TIME<br>- EXCESSIVE V <sub>T</sub> , LONG I-TIME | - VC: ↑ FLOW OR ↓ V <sub>T</sub> (WILL ↓ I-TIME)<br>- PC: ↓ I-TIME |

\* MAY ↑ P<sub>L</sub> DISCOMFORT  
\* LARGER I-TIME CAN PROMOTE AUTOPEEP (BC ↓ TIME FOR EXHALATION)



# TRIGGER DYSSYNCHRONY

- PROBLEMS INITIATING BREATH

## AUTO TRIGGERING

- UNWANTED BREATH DELIVERED REPEATEDLY DUE TO FALSE TRIGGER

| WHAT CAUSES IT?  | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|--|--|
| - SENSOR IS TOO SENSITIVE<br>- CARDIAC OSCILLATIONS<br>- AIR LEAKS<br>- FLUID IN CIRCUIT | * ELIMINATE SOURCE (REMOVE LEAKS/EXCESS FLUID)<br>- ↓ SENSITIVITY OF TRIGGER<br>- SWITCH FROM FLOW TO PRESSURE TRIGGER |



\* ↑ RATE MAY CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DISCOMFORT FOR P<sub>L</sub>. LEAD TO SET FAILURE IF NOT RECOGNIZED, OR CAUSE RESPIRATORY ALKALOSIS

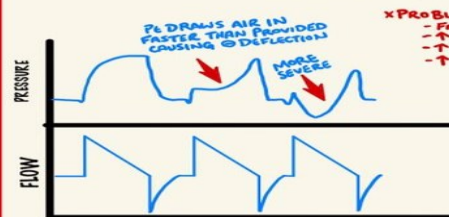
# FORMS OF VENTILATOR DYSSYNCHRONY

## Flow Dyssynchrony

- PROBLEMS DELIVERING BREATH

## INADEQUATE FLOW

- NOT ENOUGH FLOW TO SUPPORT THE P<sub>L</sub> FLOW DEMANDS



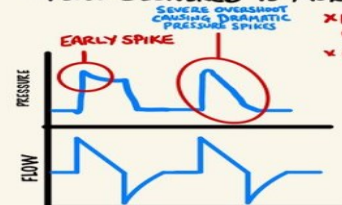
\* PROBLEM BC THE P<sub>L</sub> IS BREATHING HARD AGAINST VENT  
- FOLDED WORK SHIFTING TO VENTILATOR  
- ↑ RESP MUSCLE FATIGUE  
- ↑ O<sub>2</sub> CONSUMPTION  
- ↑ PFP → ↑ RISK OF BAROTRAUMA

| WHAT CAUSES IT?   | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|---|--|
| - THE P <sub>L</sub> FLOW IS MORE THAN WHAT VENT WILL PROVIDE | - ↑ INSPIRATORY FLOW<br>- SWITCH TO PRESSURE MODE<br>- MANAGE CAUSE (FEVER, PAIN, ETC) |

\* MAY LOOK LIKE STRESS INDEX > 1 (V<sub>T</sub> > COMPLIANCE) THAT CAN CAUSE VOLUTRAUMA  
\* FLOW PROBLEMS SEEN DURING ACTIVE BREATH WHEREAS COMPLIANCE ISSUE PATTERN SEEN IN PASSIVE BREATHS

## FLOW OVERSHOOT

- FLOW DELIVERED IS MORE THAN WHAT P<sub>L</sub> WANTS



\* NOT COMMON, MAY SEE IN VC IF FLOW WAS INITIALLY TOO HIGH OR IN PC IF I-TIME FAST / INSP PRESSURE TOO HIGH

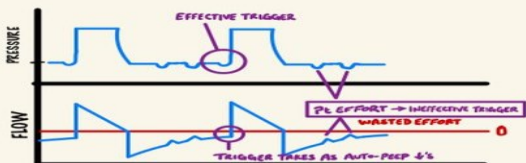
\* OVERSHOOT CAN  
- ↑ P<sub>L</sub> DISCOMFORT  
- ARTIFICIALLY SHORTEN BREATH  
- ↑ RESPIRATORY RATE

| WHAT CAUSES IT?                         | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|---|--|
| - VENT FLOW > WHAT P <sub>L</sub> WANTS | - ↓ FLOW IN VC<br>- LENGTHEN RISE TIME IN PRESSURE MODES |

## FAILURE TO TRIGGER

- P<sub>L</sub> CANT TRIGGER VENT OR BREATH IS DELAYED AFTER P<sub>L</sub> EFFORT

| WHAT CAUSES IT?  | HOW DO I FIX IT?   |
|--|--|
| - AUTOPEEP (MC)<br>- COPD, ↑ V <sub>T</sub> , TRAP RATE, ETC<br>- TRIGGER SETTINGS<br>- FLOW<br>- PRESSURE | ↓ AUTOPEEP<br>↓ RESP RATE, ↓ INSP TIME, REVERSE CAUSE<br>↑ TRIGGER SENSITIVITY (CAREFUL AS MAY CAUSE OPPOSITE PROBLEMS)<br>↑ EXTRINSIC PEEP (1/2 WARD OF TRIGGERING) |



\* MC FORM OF VENTILATOR DYSSYNCHRONY  
\* ↓ P<sub>L</sub> COMFORT → CAN LEAD TO MORE SEDATION  
\* ↑ S' WORK, ↓ CO, AND CARDIAC COLLAPSE