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Intraoperative mechanical ventilation: A quality improvement quest

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Mechanical ventilation is a critical lifesaving tool in the intraoperative care of surgical patients submitted to general anesthesia. Ventilatory settings can also contribute to lung inflammation, oxidative stress and injury, even in healthy lungs of animals and humans. The optimum ventilatory settings for surgical patients are still being studied. Protective lung ventilation with low tidal volumes has been recommended. In any case, there is a delay between expert recommendations and their widespread implementation. A quality improvement focus in intraoperative ventilatory practice requires a literature follow up, an institutional objective analysis of individual practice, education of providers, specific interventions and continuous evaluation. We will present relevant current knowledge, recent advances and practical quality improvement suggestions in the field of intraoperative ventilation.

Biography

Ana Fernandez-Bustamante completed her MD degree at the University of Valladolid (Spain), and anesthesiology residency training and PhD at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). She also completed a cardiothoracic anesthesia fellowship and research fellowship on lung injury at the Johns Hopkins University. She is currently an Associate Professor of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Colorado. She has obtained clinical/translational funding through the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER), published in peer review journals and serves as reviewer of reputed medical journals.

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