Oxygen delivery, carbon dioxide removal, energy transfer to lungs and pulmonary hypertension behavior during venous-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support: a mathematical modeling approach

Oferta de oxigênio, remoção de dióxido de carbono, transferência de energia aos pulmões e comportamento da hipertensão pulmonar durante o suporte com oxigenação por membrana extracorpórea: um modelo matemático

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1. METHODS

In this supplementary material, we describe the principles of the mathematical modeling.

1.1. Energy transfer from the ventilator to the lungs

The basic principle of mechanical ventilation relies on active pulmonary inflation through the energy transfer from the mechanical ventilator to the lungs. In acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) patients, the higher the pulmonary compliance and the lower the airway resistance, the lower will be ventilator-to-lungs energy transfer, and a high proportion of this low amount of energy transfer will be dissipated generating tidal volume (Vt) (Figure 1S). Likewise, low pulmonary compliance with low airway resistance will be associated with a high amount of the ventilator-lungs energy transfer dissipated in alveoli overdistension and cyclic opening of respiratory units, a process determinant of the physical concept of lungs strain, in which the higher the strain, the more the lungs expand relatively to initial expiratory lung volumes. $(1,2)$ The strain is partitioned in static strain, as generated by positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), and dynamic strain, as generated by Vt. The dynamic strain results in deformation of the lung structure, triggers inflammation, edema and hemorrhage formation. Furthermore, a high static strain is associated with slight inter-alveolus septum rupture and interstitial emphysema development.^(2,3)

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Figure 1S - Exploring the strain concept. Defining strain rate as tidal volume/ functional residual capacity ratio, in **Panel A)** (Normal lungs condition), the higher functional residual capacity promotes a lower strain rate than **Panel B)** (acute respiratory distress syndrome condition), considering the tidal volume is the same. In acute respiratory distress syndrome, the collapsed alveolus causes a lower pulmonary compliance than in normal condition; therefore the energy spent generating tidal volume in normal condition is also spent in mechanical alveoli hyperdistention (higher strain rate) as presented in acute respiratory distress syndrome condition. FRC – functional residual capacity; ARDS - acute respiratory distress syndrome. # Normally aerated alveoli; * collapsed alveoli; \$ hyperdistended alveoli.

In order to quantify the amount of energy transferred from the ventilator to the lung, the mechanical power concept was used. (4) The mechanical power is derived from the equation of motion, and then computes the most important energy load components (Elastic and resistive, adding PEEP to the equation and neglecting inertial forces) of each respiratory cycle.⁽⁵⁾ To quantify the total energy load transference per minute, the obtained value is multiplied by the respiratory rate. The calculation of energy load transferred from the mechanical ventilator to the lungs per minute is mathematically expressed as following:(4)

Power_{rs} = 0.098 * RR * { $\triangle V^2$ * [½ * EL_{rs} + RR * [(1 + I:E) / (60 * I:E)] * R_{aw}] + $\triangle V$ * PEEP}

Where:

Power_{rs} - energy transferred to the lungs (Joules/minute)

RR - respiratory rate (Breaths/minute)

▲V - tidal volume (mL)

ELrs - respiratory system elastance (cmH2O/L)

I:E - inspiratory time / expiratory time ratio

Raw - airway resistance (cmH2O/L/second)

PEEP - positive end-expiratory pressure (cmH₂O)

The calculation of the mechanical power has a good correlation and a reasonable agreement with the tomographic measurement of the pulmonary energy load in mechanically ventilated patients.(4)

Some ventilatory settings are used during ultraprotective ventilation beside extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) support, with different impact on mechanical power. Since pressure controlled modality (PCV) is frequently used in ECMO supported patients, the energy load related variables adjusted at bedside are: respiratory rate (RR), PEEP, I:E, and driving pressure. Ventilatory settings allowing lung rest are used in up to 66% of Extracorporeal Life-Support organization (ELSO) registered ECMO centers.⁽⁶⁾ In this matter, the CESAR trial ventilatory strategy is a very attractive one.⁽⁷⁾ Furthermore, this ventilatory strategy is widely used, $(6,8,9)$ and also by our group.⁽¹⁰⁾ This strategy includes the following ventilatory settings: PEEP = $10 -$ 15cmH₂O, RR = 10 - 15BPM, and a driving pressure of $5 - 15$ cmH₂O. There is an

association of higher PEEPs (10 - 15cmH2O) and lower plateau or driving pressures with lower mortality.^(8,11) The impact of I:E ratio on any outcome is not well established. Therefore, the marginal effect of each cited variable on the mechanical power was simulated in the supplementary results. As many ventilators offer the possibility of direct inspiratory time adjustment, the plot between inspiratory time normalized to a RR $=$ 10BPM and mechanical power was also built.

In order to facilitate the understanding of PEEP interaction effect with driving pressure on the mechanical power, and RR interaction effect with driving pressure on the mechanical power, two graphs plotting driving pressure and mechanical power were built, one with different PEEP levels and other with different RRs.

The airway pressure release ventilation (APRV) is used in up to 11% of ELSO centers.(6) Our group has used the APRV in patients with alveolar hemorrhage or in patients with collapsed lung who is potentially recruitable. The APRV is also explored in the supplementary results section.

1.2. Arterial oxygenation and total amount of oxygen transfer

We did the mathematical modeling considering the venous-venous configuration with the drainage cannula introduced in the femoral vein, and the arterial cannula introduced in the jugular vein. The oxygenation, oxygen transfer, decarboxylation, and carbon dioxide transfer modeling were explored using the following model:

Figure 2S - Patient and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation coupling scheme of the mathematical modeling. In this figure, the blood flows, oxygen and carbon dioxide blood contents used in the mathematical modeling are depicted. FiO2 - fraction of inspired oxygen; PalvO2 - oxygen alveolar partial pressure; RR - respiratory rate; Vt - tidal volume; ECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; $C_{pre}O_2$ - pre-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation oxygen blood content; $\text{C}_{\text{post}}\text{O}_2$ - post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation oxygen blood content; $\text{C}_{\text{pre}}\text{CO}_2$ - pre-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation carbon dioxide blood content; C_{post}CO₂ - post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation carbon dioxide blood content; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; QEshunt - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation parallel cava blood flow (cava blood flow without extracorporeal membrane oxygenation); \overline{Q}_{CO} - cardiac output; C_vO_2 - venous oxygen blood content; $C_{RA}O_2$ - right atrium oxygen content; \tilde{C}_VCO_2 - venous carbon dioxide blood content; C_RACO_2 - right atrium carbon dioxide content; Q_{recirc} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation recirculation blood flow; $C_{\text{post}}CO_2$ - postextracorporeal membrane oxygenation carbon dioxide blood content; QLungs - pulmonary blood flow in matched aerated alveoli/capillaries; C_0O_2 - pulmonary alveolar capillary blood oxygen content; C_0CO_2 pulmonary alveolar capillary carbon dioxide blood content; QLshunt - pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions; VO₂ - peripheral compartment oxygen consumption; VCO₂ - peripheral compartment carbon dioxide production.

General nomenclature

- VO2 peripheral compartment oxygen consumption.
- VCO2 peripheral compartment carbon dioxide production.
- PalvO2 oxygen alveolar partial pressure.
- EtCO2 end-tidal carbon dioxide partial pressure.
- RR respiratory rate
- Vt tidal volume

Blood Flows

 Q_{CO} – cardiac output, Q_{ECMO} – ECMO blood flow, Q_{Eshunt} – ECMO parallel cava blood flow (cava blood flow without ECMO oxygenation), Q_{recirc} – ECMO recirculation blood flow, Q_{Lungs} – pulmonary blood flow in matched aerated alveoli / capillaries, Q_{Lshunt} – pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions.

Oxygen and carbon dioxide blood contents

 $CaO₂ -$ arterial oxygen blood content, $C_vO₂$ - venous oxygen blood content, $C_{pre}O₂ -$ pre-ECMO oxygen blood content, $C_{\text{post}}O_2$ - post-ECMO oxygen blood content, $C_{\text{RA}}O_2$ – right atrium oxygen content, and $C_{\text{e}}O_2$ – pulmonary alveolar capillary blood oxygen content.

 $C_{a}CO_{2}$ – arterial carbon dioxide blood content, $C_{v}CO_{2}$ - venous carbon dioxide blood content, $C_{pre}CO_{2}$ – pre-ECMO carbon dioxide blood content, $C_{post}CO_2$ – post-ECMO carbon dioxide blood content, $C_{RA}CO_2$ – right atrium carbon dioxide content, and C_cCO_2 – pulmonary alveolar capillary carbon dioxide blood content.

1.2.1. Standard formulas used

- Blood local oxygen content $(C_LO₂) = PO₂ * 0.0031 + (1.34 * SatO₂ * Hb)$
- Local oxygen delivery $(DO_{L2}) = C_LO₂ * Q_L$
- $-VO_2 = (C_a C_v)^* Q_{CO}$
- Oxygen transfer = $(C_{\text{post}}O_2 C_{\text{pre}}O_2)$ * QECMO
- Pulmonary shunt $(Q_S/Q_T) = (C_cO_2 C_aO_2) / (C_cO_2 C_vO_2)$

1.2.2. Creating mathematical terms of the oxygen modeling

(1) Following the figure 2S, starting in the systemic venous compartment, computing the blood drained from the peripheral compartment:

From Fick's equation:

Where Hb is the hemoglobin level in q/dL and Q_{CO} is the cardiac output only here is expressed in L/minute.

(2) ECMO recirculation term

 Q_{recirc} has been mathematically described as a function of the Q_{ECMO} . (12-14) Using the optimized femoral-jugular configuration, with a Q_{ECMO} of 5000mL, it is expected a recirculation rate up to 20%.⁽¹²⁾ During low Q_{ECMO} rate, the Q_{recirc} varies linearly ассording to the Q_{ECMO},⁽¹⁴⁾ however, at higher Q_{ECMO} rate this relation of Qrecirc with QECMO is non-linear (exponential function).(14)

Intuitively, the Q_{CO} is also a modulator of the recirculation once keeping Q_{ECMO} stable; the higher the Qco, the higher will be the right ventricular drainage of the cannulas region and smaller the recirculation rate due to the ventricular drainage of the arterial cannula blood output. In this way, an extremely low Q_{CO} is responsible for almost 100% of arterial cannula blood recirculation.^{(14)} As a higher Q_{ECMO} is directly associated with a higher Q_{recirc} , and a higher Q_{CO} is associated with a lower Q_{recirc} , the equation was fitted using recirculation rate against the Q_{ECMO}/Q_{CO} ratio.

The recirculation rate equation was created as a single exponential function (basic equation: $f(x) = a * (1 - b^x)$), where $f(x)$ is the recirculation rate and x is the Q_{ECMO}/Q_{CO} ratio. Fitting all the data exposed above resulted in the following equation:

Recirculation rate (%) = 29.1321 $*(1 - 0.2791^{\text{QECMO/QCO}})$

From here on, the Q_{CO} and Q_{ECMO} are expressed in mL/minute.

Plotting the fitted equation with QECMO resulted in the following graphs:

Figure 3S - Association of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow with recirculation rate (**Panel A**) and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation recirculation blood flow (**Panel B**). In both simulations, cardiac output was fixed in 5500mL/minute.

Figure 4S - Association of cardiac output with the recirculation rate (**Panel A**) and cardiac output with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation recirculation blood flow (**Panel B**). In both simulations, cardiac output varied from 2000 to 10,000mL/minute. Three different extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flows were simulated in order to demonstrate the interaction between both variables.

The recirculating blood flow carries $C_{Post}O_2$, therefore there will be not

oxygenation of this amount of blood passing through the oxygenator. Thus, the effective

Q_{ECMO} (the partition of Q_{ECMO} which will really be oxygenated) will be defined as:

$$
Q_{\text{ECMO}}\text{ effective } (Q_{\text{ECMOeff}})=Q_{\text{ECMO}}\text{-}Q_{\text{recirc}}
$$

The $Q_{ECMOeff}$ plotted against the Q_{ECMO} (with Q_{CO} simulated in 2000, 5000, and 10,000mL) is shown below:

Figure 5S - Association of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow with the effective ECMO blood flow (QECMOeff) in three different cardiac output.

(3) Post-oxygenator oxygen content $(C_{Post}O_2)$

The FiO2 in the oxygenator sweep gas flow was considered 100%. Considering the oxygenator as efficient, the hemoglobin will ever be 100% saturated by oxygen. The $P_{Post}O_2$ at higher Q_{ECMO} is expected to be lower than $P_{Post}O_2$ at lower Q_{ECMO} . ⁽¹⁵⁾ The $P_{Post}O_2$ at Q_{ECMO} = 5500 - 6000mL/minute is expected to be \geq 150mmHg,⁽¹⁶⁾ and a Q_{ECMO} as low as 2000mL/minute the $P_{Post}O_2$ is expected to be around 400mmHg, with a nonlinear $P_{Post}O_2$ decrement with progressive higher Q_{ECMO} . $(12,15)$ In order to fit this nonlinear $P_{Post}O_2$ decrement, the formula used was based on an exponential decay $f(x) = a$ + b $*$ exp(1) \wedge (-c $*$ x), where f(x) is the P_{Post}O₂ and x is the Q_{ECMO}. The final plus 1 was inserted to avoid zero as denominator. The result of fitting the above data was:

 $P_{Post}O_2 = 130.5 + 319.5 * exp(1)$ ^ (-0.0005 * Q_{ECMO})

The $C_{Post}O_2$ was then calculated as:

Figure 6S - Post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation partial pressure of oxygen (**Panel A**) and post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation oxygen blood content (**Panel B**) as a function of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow. The **Panel B** shows the association with three different levels of hemoglobin.

(4) The oxygen transfer in the oxygenator

The oxygen transfer is defined as following: (15)

Oxygen transfer (O_2 transfer) = ($C_{Post}O_2$ - $C_{Pre}O_2$) * Q_{ECMOeff}

The CPreO2 as a separated fraction from the recirculated blood is considered equal to C_1C_2 . The simulation of O_2 transfer as function of Q_{ECMO} leads to the main result of this modeling, and is presented in the results section of the main manuscript.

(5) Right atrial oxygen venous content $(C_{RA}O_2)$

The coronary sinus blood flow (1mL/kg/minute) was considered negligible to an adult. The $C_{RA}O_2$ is the mean of the $C_{Post}O_2$ and C_VO_2 pondered according to the blood flows, that is:

 $Q_{\text{Fshunt}} = Q_{\text{CO}} - Q_{\text{FCMOeff}}$

 $C_{\text{RA}}O_2 = \left[\left(C_{\text{Post}}O_2 \cdot Q_{\text{ECMOeff}}\right) + \left(C_V O_2 \cdot Q_{\text{Eshunt}}\right)\right] / Q_{\text{CO}}$

(6) Arterial oxygen venous content (C_aO_2)

The C_aO_2 was calculated based on the pulmonary shunt as following:

$$
C_aO_2 = C_cO_2 - Q_S/Q_T * (C_cO_2 - C_VO_2)
$$

 Q_S/Q_T already includes the physiological shunt, mainly constituted by the bronchial circulation. The $C_cO₂$ is calculated based on the oxygen alveolar partial pressure:

$$
P_A O_2 = FiO_2 * (P_{atm} - P_{H2O}) - PaCO_2 / RQ
$$

Where P_{atm} is the barometric pressure (\sim 690mmHg), RQ is the respiratory quotient (\sim 0.8), and $P_{H₂}$ was considered as 47mmHg.

Considering the partial capillary pressure of oxygen equal to the PAO2, and hemoglobin oxygen saturation of 100%, CcO₂ was defined as:

 $C_{C}O_{2} = 0.0031 * P_{A}O_{2} + 1.36 * Hb * 1$

Combining those three last equations, the $CaO₂$ was calculated as following:

 $C_2O_2 = 0.0031 * (FiO_2 * 643 - PaCO_2 / 0.8) + 1.36 * Hb * 11 - Q_S/Q_T * {0.0031 * (FiO₂ * 643 - 1.36)}$ $PaCO_2 / 0.8$) + 1.36 * Hb * 1] – $[(C_{Post}O_2 * Q_{ECMO} + C_VO_2 * Q_{Eshunt}] / Q_{CO}$

 (7) Arterial oxygen saturation (SatO₂)

SatO₂ was calculated as following:

 $SatO_2 = C_aO_2 / (1.36 * Hb)$

After this point, the mathematical circuit reentries, closing the loop.

1.2.3. Looping and iteractions to reach the equilibrium

For starting equilibrium cycle of mathematical circuit (Figure 7S), the arterial saturation at the time of ECMO initiation (64%) was used. For any new variable tested, the circuit was recycled until reaching the equilibrium. In order to assure the equilibrium of the SatO2, twenty iteractions (cycles) were tested (see the appendix to check the script).

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Figure 7S - Visual inspection of each step described above closing the iteractions. Twenty cycles (iteractions) were considered to reach the equilibrium. ECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; $VO₂ -$ oxygen consumption; Hb – hemoglobin; Q_{co} - cardiac output; PaCO₂ - partial pressure of carbon dioxide; FiO_{2ventilator} - Ventilator fraction of inspired oxygen; QECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; C_aO₂- arterial content of oxygen; P_AO₂ - alveolar oxygen partial pressure; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired oxygen; P_{atm} - atmospheric pressure; P_{H2O} partial pressure of water; RQ - respiratory coefficient; C_cO₂ - pulmonary alveolar capillary blood oxygen content; Q_s/Q_T - shunt fraction; C_{post}O₂ - postextracorporeal membrane oxygenation oxygen blood content; $Q_{FCMOeff}$ - ECMO effective blood flow; $C_vO₂$ - venous oxygen blood content; Q $_{Eshunt}$ - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation parallel cava blood flow (cava blood flow without extracorporeal membrane oxygenation); Qco - cardiac output; CRAO₂ - right atrium oxygen content; C_{post}O₂ - post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation oxygen blood content; S_vO₂ - Oxygen mixed venous saturation; Q_{recirc} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation recirculation blood flow; $P_{p_{net}}O_2$ - Oxygen partial pressure post-ECMO.

Some basic simulations were done to test the model consistency and stability. A clinical scenario is shown below, in which a patient is initiating ECMO support. The clinical variables are depicted in the graphs' legend. Three different hemoglobin levels were simulated to clarify the freedom of the model. The oxygen saturation and transfer are shown:

Figure 8S - A patient soon after extracorporeal membrane oxygenation initiation, already ultraprotectivelly ventilated is shown in **Panels A and B**, this patient presented an elevation of cardiac output to 10L/minute and the new clinical scenario with hypoxemia is shown in **Panels C and D**. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; Q_{co} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; $FiO₂$ - fraction of inspired oxygen; VO₂ - oxygen consumption.

Figure 9S - As the patient was hypoxemic, the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow was increased to 5000 mL/minute as shown in **Panels A and B**, the ventilator fraction of inspired oxygen was then increased to 100% as shown in **Panels C and D**. SatO₂ – oxygen saturation; Q_{co} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired oxygen; VO2 - oxygen consumption.

Figure 10S - The lungs of the patient were recruited with a high positive end-expiratory pressure, and the pulmonary shunt decreased to 70% as shown in **Panels A and B**, the ventilator fraction of inspired oxygen was then decreased to 70% as shown in **Panels C and D**. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; Q_{CO} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired oxygen; VO₂ - oxygen consumption.

Figure 11S - With the oxygenation improvement, the fraction of inspired oxygen was further decreased to 21%, however the lungs de-recruited and pulmonary shunt increased to 80% as shown in **Panels A and B**, the patient clinical condition improved and the VO2 decreased to 150mL/minute as shown in **Panels C and D**. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; Qco cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired $oxygen$; $VO₂ - oxygen$ consumption.

Figure 12S - Now with patient's improvement the cardiac output decreased to 6 L/minute as shown in **Panels A and B**, due to the patient oxygenation improvement, the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow was reduced to 3500mL/minute as shown in **Panels C and D**. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; Q_{cO} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired oxygen; VO₂ - oxygen consumption.

The behavior of equilibrated values was compatible with ECMO-supported patients at the bedside.

1.3. Arterial carbon dioxide and total amount of carbon dioxide transfer

The $CO₂$ modeling was also based on femoral – jugular venous-venous configuration. The patient – ECMO coupling was considered as in the figure 2S.

1.3.1. Standard formulas used

Additionally to the 1.2.1 item, the blood $CO₂$ content was calculated using the Douglas et al. formula, in which the $CO₂$ content in three compartments – dissolved in plasma, as bicarbonate and linked to hemoglobin $-$, were considered.⁽¹⁷⁾

 $-pK = 6.086 + (0.042 * (7.4 - pH)) + ((38 - temperature) * 0.00472 + (0.00139 * (7.4$ pH)))

 $-$ s (CO₂ solubility) = 0.0307 + (0.00057 $*$ (37 - temp)) + (0.00002 $*$ (37 - temp)²)

- Plasma $CO_2 = 2.226$ * s * P_LCO₂ * (1 + 10 ^(ph-pk))

- Blood local oxygen content $(C_LCO_2) = (1 - ((0.0289 * Hb) / (3.352 - 0.456 * (SatO₂ /$ 100) * (8.142 - pH)))) * Plasma CO2

1.3.2. Creating mathematical terms of the carbon dioxide modeling

(1) The recirculation term was used as described in the 1.2.2 item.

As described in the methods section, the patient had a $PaCO₂ = 62mmHg$ just before ECMO initiation.

(2) Initial PvCO₂ was modeled using a predetermined VCO₂, which will add $CO₂$ (CCO_{2added}) to the arterial blood resulting in the $C_vCO₂$ (mL of CO₂ / 100mL of blood).

The VCO2 will be carried out by blood in a minute by a volume of blood equivalent to

Q_{CO}. Therefore the CCO_{2added} was calculated as following:

 $CCO_{2added} = VCO₂ / (Q_{CO} * 10)$

Taking into account the C_aCO_2 , calculated as already described in the 1.3.1 item,

the CvCO2 was calculated as following:

 $C_VCO_2 = C_aCO_2 + CCO_{2added}$

Still using the Douglas formula rearranged,^{(17)} the P_vCO₂ was calculated as following:

 $P_vCO_2 =$ Plasma $CO_2 / (2.226 * s * (1 + 10^{(ph-pk)}))$

The venous pH was considered as 0.02 lower than the arterial pH, as described in septic patients.(18)

Testing the consistency of PvCO2, the following graphs were built.

Figure 13S - The P_vCO₂ behavior with progressive cardiac output elevation with fixed values of $VCO₂ = 150mL/minute$, hemoglobin = 10g/dL, and initial partial pressure of carbon dioxide of 62mmHg. **Panels A** shows this behavior with different pHs (fixed temperature $= 37^{\circ}$ Celsius) and **Panel B** shows this behavior with different body temperatures (fixed $pH = 7.40$). P_vCO₂ - mixed venous carbon dioxide partial pressure. VCO₂ – carbon dioxide production

Figure 14S -The P_vCO₂ behavior with progressive cardiac output elevation with fixed values of $pH = 7.40$, temperature = 37° Celsius, and initial partial pressure of carbon dioxide of 62mmHg. **Panel A** shows this behavior with different VCO₂s (fixed hemoglobin = 10g/dL) and **Panel B** shows this behavior with different hemoglobins (fixed $VCO₂$ = $150mL/minute$). VCO₂ – carbon dioxide production.

(3) ECMO $CO₂$ transfer (CO_{2t})

The CO_{2t} was calculated as described previously by our group.⁽¹⁵⁾ The CO_{2t} depends on sweep gas flow, hemoglobin level, Q_{ECMO} , and $P_{V}CO_{2}$. The CO_{2t} formula used was:

 $CO_{2t} = (Q_{ECMO} * 0.017) + (sweep * 32.91) + (P_vCO_2 * 1.192) - (Hb * 3.478)$

(4) $CO₂$ ECMO removal (CO_{2r}) and $C_{post}CO₂$

Using the same rationale of volume / time used to calculate $P_vCO₂$, the CO_{2r} was calculated as:

 $CO_{2r} = (Q_{ECMO} * C_0CO_2 / 100) - CO_{2t}$

The $C_{\text{post}}CO_2$ was then calculated as:

 $C_{\text{post}}CO_{2} = CO_{2r}$ * 100 / QECMO

(5) Modeling CRACO2

The $C_{RA}CO_2$ was calculated through the proportional C_VCO_2 and $C_{post}CO_2$ admixture. The proportion of each CO₂ content was extracted from Q_{ECMO} and Q_{Eshunt}.

 $CrACO_2 = (QECMO / (QCO * 1000) * C_{post}CO_2) + (QEshunt / (QCO * 1000) * C_vCO₂)$

(6) Lung ventilation and decarboxylation

The effective lung minute ventilation and decarboxylation was modeled based on end-tidal $CO₂$ (EtCO₂). Barometric pressure was considered 690mmHg. The proportion of $CO₂$ removed in the residual function of native lungs was considered as $EtCO₂$ / 690. The volume of $CO₂$ removed by the native lungs (CO_{2rl}) was then considered as:

 CO_{2rl} = Respiratory rate * tidal volume * EtCO₂ / 690

The final $C_cCO₂$ was calculated based on the proportional flow through the ventilated lung regions as:

 $C_{c}CO_{2} = \{[C_{RA}CO_{2} * (Q_{CO} - Q_{Lshunt})] - CO_{211}\}/[100 * (Q_{CO} - Q_{Lshunt})]$

(7) Modeling PaCO2

The C_aCO₂ was calculated based on the proportion of Q_{Lshunt} as:

 $CaCO₂ = (C_{RA}CO₂ * Q_{Lshunt} / Q_{CO}) + C_cCO₂ * (Q_{Lshunt} - Q_{CO}) / Q_{CO}$

At last, P_aCO₂ was calculated using the Douglas method:

 P_aCO_2 = Plasma CO₂ / (2.226 * s * (1 + 10^(ph-pk)))

This value of P_aCO₂ re-enters the loop until stabilization.

1.3.3. Looping and iteractions to reach the equilibrium

For starting the equilibrium cycle of the mathematical circuit (Figure 15S), the arterial saturation at the time of ECMO initiation of 64% and an initial P_aCO_2 of 62mmHg were used. For any new variable tested, the circuit was recycled until reaching the equilibrium. In order to assure the equilibrium of the P_aCO_2 , eight hundred (cycles) were tested (see the appendix to check the script).

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Figure 15S - Visual inspection of each step described above closing the iteractions. Eight hundred cycles (iteractions) were considered to reach the equilibrium. ECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation; Hb - hemoglobin; Qco - cardiac output; SatO₂ – oxygen saturation; EtCO₂ - end-tidal carbon dioxide partial pressure; QECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; PaCO₂ - partial pressure of carbon dioxide; C₂CO₂ - arterial content of carbon dioxide: CO₂ - carbon dioxide: C_vCO₂ - venous carbon dioxide blood content; PvCO2 – mixed venous carbon dioxide partial pressure[;] $CCO_{2added} – added carbon dioxide content: $VCO₂ –$ carbon dioxide production: $C_vCO₂ –$ venous carbon dioxide blood content; $Q_{ECMO} –$ extracorporeal membrane$ OXygenation blood flow; Qrecirc - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation recirculation blood flow; QECMOoff - ECMO efficient blood flow; CO_{2t} - carbon dioxide transfer: CO_{2r} - carbon dioxide removed by native lungs: $C_{\text{post}}CO_{2}$ - post-extracorporeal membrane oxygenation carbon dioxide blood content; $C_{\text{RA}}O_{2}$ - right atrium oxygen content; C_cCO₂ - pulmonary alveolar capillary carbon dioxide blood content; C_{RA}CO₂ - right atrium carbon dioxide content; QLshunt - pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions.

In order to test the model consistency and stability, as in the oxygenation model, some basic simulations were done. A clinical scenario is shown below, in which a patient is initiating ECMO support. The clinical variables are depicted in the graphs' legend. Three different hemoglobin levels were simulated to clarify the freedom of the model. The $PaCO₂$ and transfer are shown:

Figure 16S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (**Panel A**) after 800 iteractions of the mathematical model with three different values of hemoglobin and the respective carbon dioxide transfer (**Panel B**). PaCO2 - partial pressure of carbon dioxide.

Other controlled variables were:

 $Q_{CO} = 8$ L/minute $VCO₂ = 180mL/minute$ pH = 7.40 Temperature $= 37$ ^oC QECMO = 3500 mL/minute Sweep gas flow = 3.5L/minute $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHa$ $Vt = 10mL$ $RR = 10$ RPM

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Figure 17S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (**Panel A**) after 800 iteractions of the mathematical model with three different values of cardiac output and the respective carbon dioxide transfer (Panel B). P_aCO₂ partial pressure of carbon dioxide; Qco - cardiac output.

Other controlled variables were:

 $Hb = 10g/dL$ $VCO₂ = 180mL/minute$ pH = 7.40 Temperature = 37° C QECMO = 3500mL/minute Sweep gas flow = 3.5L/minute $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHg$ $Vt = 10mL$ $RR = 10$ BPM

Figure 18S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (**Panel A**) after 800 iteractions of the mathematical model with three different values of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow and the respective carbon dioxide transfer (Panel B). P_aCO₂ - partial pressure of carbon dioxide; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow.

Other controlled variables were:

 $Hb = 10g/dL$ $VCO₂ = 180mL/minute$ pH = 7.40 Temperature = 37ºC $Q_{CO} = 8$ L/minute Sweep gas flow = 3.5L/minute $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHq$ $Vt = 10mL$ $RR = 10$ BPM

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Figure 19S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (**Panel A**) after 800 iteractions of the mathematical model with three different values of sweep flow and the respective carbon dioxide transfer (**Panel B**). PaCO2 - partial pressure of carbon dioxide.

Other controlled variables were:

 $Hb = 10g/dL$ $VCO₂ = 180mL/minute$ pH = 7.40 Temperature = 37° C $Q_{CO} = 8$ L/minute $Q_{FCMO} = 3500 \text{m}$ L/minute $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHg$ $Vt = 10mL$ $RR = 10$ BPM

Figure 20S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (**Panel A**) after 800 iteractions of the mathematical model with three different values of $VCO₂$ and the respective carbon dioxide transfer (Panel B). P_aCO₂ partial pressure of carbon dioxide; VCO₂ - carbon dioxide production.

Other controlled variables were:

 $Hb = 10g/dL$ Sweep gas flow = 3.5L/minute pH = 7.40 Temperature = 37ºC $Q_{CO} = 8L/min$ ute $Q_{ECMO} = 3500mL/minute$ $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHg$ $Vt = 10mL$

 $RR = 10$ BPM

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1.4. Oxygen partial pressure responsible for pulmonary vasoconstriction inhibition (PstimulusO2).

The pulmonary pressure during ARDS results from many factors, such as hypoxemia, hypercapnia, pH, cardiac output, and lung parenchyma collapse. The oxygen partial pressure responsible for modulation of pulmonary arterial pressure results from the alveolar ($PAO₂$) and venous oxygen partial pressure ($P_vO₂$) as following:⁽¹⁹⁾

 $P_{\text{stimulus}}O_2 = P_A O_2^{0.68} + P_V O_2^{0.32}$

The Q_{Pshunt} was taken into account considering the P_AO_2 in shunt regions as zero due to alveolar collapse or absence of fresh air. In this way, the final $P_{stimulus}O_2$ was calculated as:

 $\mathsf{P}_\mathsf{stimulusO2} = [(\mathsf{Q}_{\mathsf{Pshunt}} \, / \, \mathsf{Qco}) \, * \, \mathsf{P}_\mathsf{v}\mathsf{O}_2{}^{0.32}] + [(1 - (\mathsf{Q}_{\mathsf{Pshunt}} \, / \, \mathsf{Qco})) \, * \, (\mathsf{P}_\mathsf{A}\mathsf{O}_2{}^{0.68} + \mathsf{P}_\mathsf{v}\mathsf{O}_2{}^{0.32})]$

2. RESULTS

This section shows complementary analyses using the mathematical models.

2.1. Energy transfer from the ventilator to the lungs

The marginal effect of PEEP, driving pressure, RR, and I:E ratio on the mechanical power in ultraprotective ventilation are shown below. Other variables besides the variable of interest were kept as described in the clinical scenario in the methods section of the main manuscript.

Figure 21S - Marginal effect of positive end-expiratory pressure on the mechanical power. The controlled variables were respiratory rate = 10 BPM, I:E = 1:2, driving pressure = 10cmH₂O, and static respiratory compliance = 14mL/cmH2O. PEEP - positive end-expiratory pressure.

Figure 22S - Marginal effect of respiratory rate on the mechanical power. The controlled variables were positive end-expiratory pressure = 10cmH2O, I:E = 1:2, driving pressure = cmH₂O, and static respiratory compliance = 14mL/cmH2O.

Figure 23S - Marginal effect of driving pressure on the mechanical power. The controlled variables were positive end-expiratory pressure = 10cm H₂O, I:E = 1:2, respiratory rate = 10 BPM, and static respiratory compliance = $14 \text{mL/cmH}_2\text{O}$.

Figure 24S - Marginal effect of I:E ratio on the mechanical power. **Panel A** shows the association of I:E time ratio and mechanical power, and **Panel B** shows the association between inspiratory time in seconds with the mechanical power (with a fixed respiratory rate = 10 BPM). The controlled variables were positive end-expiratory pressure = $10 \text{cm} H_2O$, driving pressure = $10 \text{cm} H_2O$, respiratory rate = 10 BPM, and static respiratory compliance = 14mL/cmH_2 O.

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Figure 25S - Marginal effect of driving pressure on the mechanical power. **Panel A** shows the association between the plotted variables with different positive end-expiratory pressure levels (with a controlled respiratory rate = 10 BPM), and **Panel B** shows the association of plotted variables with different respiratory rates (with a controlled positive end-expiratory pressure = cmH₂O). Static respiratory compliance was 14 mL/cmH₂O.

Figure 26S - Mechanical power expressing the energy load per minute transferred from the mechanical ventilator to the lungs. APRV - airway pressure release ventilation; RR - respiratory rate; I:E – I/E time ratio.

Clinical scenario of the ARDS patient is shown in the methods text of the main manuscript. Normal lungs ventilation expresses the mechanical power of a healthy patient Oxygen delivery, carbon dioxide removal, energy transfer to lungs and pulmonary hypertension behavior during venous-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support

2.2. Arterial oxygenation and total amount of oxygen transfer

Figure 27S - Marginal effect of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow on oxygen saturation at different VO2, with a fixed pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions of 95%. **Panel A** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 10g/dL and a cardiac output of 10L/minute, and **Panel B** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 7g/dL and cardiac output of 10L/minute. SatO₂ – oxygen saturation; VO_2 - oxygen consumption; Q_{CO} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow.

Figure 28S - Marginal effect of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow on oxygen saturation at different VO2, with a fixed pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions of 95%. **Panel A** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 10g/dL and a cardiac output of 10L/minute, and **Panel B** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 14g/dL and cardiac output of 10L/minute. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; VO₂ - oxygen consumption; Q_{co} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow.

Figure 29S - Marginal effect of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow on oxygen saturation at different VO2, with a fixed pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions of 95%. **Panel A** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 10g/dL and a cardiac output of 5.5L/minute, and **Panel B** shows the effect with hemoglobin of $7q/dL$ and cardiac output of $5.5L/min$ ute. SatO₂ oxygen saturation; VO₂ - oxygen consumption; Q_{cO} - cardiac output; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow.

Figure 30S - Marginal effect of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow on oxygen saturation at different VO2, with a fixed pulmonary blood flow in shunt regions of 100%. **Panel A** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 10g/dL and a cardiac output of 10L/minute, and **Panel B** shows the effect with hemoglobin of 7g/dL and cardiac output of 10L/minute. SatO₂ - oxygen saturation; $\sqrt{O_2}$ - oxygen consumption; Qco - cardiac output; QECMO - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow.

2.3. Arterial carbon dioxide and total amount of carbon dioxide transfer

Figure 31S - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide behavior with progressive increments of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow with three different hemoglobin levels and a cardiac output = 8L/minute (**Panel A**), and three different cardiac output with fixed hemoglobin = 8g/dL **(Panel B).** PaCO₂ - partial pressure of carbon dioxide; Q_{ECMO} - extracorporeal membrane oxygenation blood flow; Qco - cardiac output.

Other controlled variables were:

 $VCO₂ = 200mL/minute$ $pH = 7.40$ Temperature $= 37$ ^oC $Q_{CO} = 8$ L/minute $Q_{\text{Pshunt}} = 95\%$ $EtCO₂ = 2mmHg$ $Vt = 10mL$ $RR = 10$ BPM

2.4. Oxygen partial pressure responsible for pulmonary vasoconstriction

inhibition (PstimulusO2)

Figure 32S - P_{stimulus}O₂ behavior with progressive increments of fraction of inspired oxygen with different P_vO₂ levels (Panel A), and P_{stimulus}O₂ behavior with progressive increments of fraction of inspired oxygen with different Q_{Pshunt} levels (Panel B). P_{stimulus}O₂ - oxygen partial pressure responsible for hypoxic vasoconstriction; FiO₂ - fraction of inspired oxygen; P_vO₂ - mixed venous oxygen partial pressure; QPshunt - shunt fraction.

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4. APENDIX

The following scripts were written in C language in R free source software.

4.1. Script for SatO2 looping

require(Hmisc)

```
# Variables
VO2 < 200Hb \leq -10CO < -5PaCO2 <- 40
FiO2v <- 30
BF <- 3500
Pshunt <- 90
SpO2 <- 64
# Looping preparation
SatO2 <- SpO2
SatO2 <- as.vector(SatO2)
02t1<-0#### Recirculation term
BF <- BF - (0.291321*(1-0.2791^(BF/(1000*CO))) * BF)
# 20 Iteractions
for (i in 1:20){
#### Peripheral compartment
   SinO2 <- SpO2/100 - (VO2/(CO*10*Hb*1.36))
   Cin <- SinO2*1.36*Hb
#### ECMO oxygenation
   PO2post <- 130.5 + 319.5 * exp(1) ^ (-0.0005 * BF)
   Cpost <- 0.0031*PO2post + Hb*1.36
#### Venous admixture
   Cva <- ((Cpost * BF) + (Cin * (CO*1000-BF)))/(CO*1000)
#### Pulmonary residual oxygenation
   PAO2 <- 653*(FiO2v/100) - (PaCO2/0.8)
   CcO2 <- 0.0031 * PAO2 + 1.36 * Hb
   CaO2 <- ((Pshunt/100) * Cva + (1-(Pshunt/100)) * CcO2)
   SatO2[i] <- SpO2
   SpO2 <- 100*CaO2/(1.36*Hb)
#### O2 transfer
   o2t1[i] <- (Cpost-Cin)*BF/100
   }
## Plot
windows(20,20)
par(mfrow=c(2,2))
plot(1:i,SatO2,xlim=c(0,20),ylim=c(0,100),axes=T,at=-1000,
```

```
 xlab="Number of iteraction (Cycle)",
    ylab=expression(paste("SatO"[2]," (%)")),
    pch=19,type="o",cex=1)
axis(1,at=seq(0,i,1),labels=F)
axis(2,at=seq(0,100,10),las=2)
minor.tick(10,20,0.5)
text(seq(0,i,1), par("usr")[3]-5,
   labels = seq(0, i, 1),srt = 45,
   xpd = TRUE, cex=1)
abline(v=seq(0,i,1),col="lightgray",lty=2)
abline(h=seq(0,100,10),col="lightgray",lty=2)
```
4.2. Script for PaCO2 looping

```
library(Hmisc)
#### Variables
\cos <- 8
vco2 <- 180
hb <- 10
ph <- 7.40
temp <- 37
BF <- 3500
sweep <- 3.5
Pshunt <- 95
etco2 < -2vt < -10RR <- 10
co2 <- 62
co2 <- as.vector(co2)
## first loop
for (l in 1:24){
BF <- 250 * l
# Recirculation term and constants
BF <- BF - (0.291321*(1-0.2791^(BF/(1000*co))) * BF)
cco2ad < vco2/(co*10)pk <- 6.086+(0.042*(7.4-ph))+((38-temp)*0.00472+(0.00139*(7.4-ph)))
s < 0.0307 + (0.00057*(37-t_{\text{em}})) + (0.00002*(37-t_{\text{em}}))^{2}sato2 <- 64
co2a <- 62
## Loop start
for (i in 1:800){
  # cco2v calculus
  plasmaco2 <- 2.226*s*co2a*(1+10^(ph-pk))
  cco2a <- (1-((0.0289*hb)/(3.352-0.456*(sato2/100)*(8.142-ph))))*plasmaco2
  cco2v <- cco2a + cco2ad
  plasmaco2v <- cco2v/((1-((0.0289*hb)/(3.352-0.456*(sato2/100)*(8.122-ph)))))
  co2v <- plasmaco2v/(2.226*s*(1+10^(ph-pk-0.02)))
```
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```
 # ECMO co2 transfer
  co2t <- (BF*0.017)+(sweep*32.91)+(co2v*1.192)-(hb*3.478)
  ecmocco2ret <- (BF * cco2v / 100) - co2t
  ccpostco2 <- ecmocco2ret*100/BF
  # Venous admixture
  cco2va <- (BF/(co*1000)*ccpostco2) + (((co*1000)-BF)/(co*1000)*cco2v)
  # Lung ventilation & decarboxilation
  mvco2 <- RR*vt*etco2/690
  Pshunt <- Pshunt+0.1
  cdcco2 <- (cco2va*(co*1000*(1-(Pshunt/100)))/100)-mvco2
  cco2plung <- cdcco2*100/(co*1000*(1-(Pshunt/100)))
  cco2a <- cco2va*(Pshunt/100) + cco2plung*(1-(Pshunt/100))
  ## CO2a calculus & Loop end
  plasmaco2a <- cco2a/((1-((0.0289*hb)/(3.352-0.456*(sato2/100)*(8.142-ph)))))
  co2a <- plasmaco2a/(2.226*s*(1+10^(ph-pk)))
}
co2[l] <- co2a
}
## Plot
windows(20,10)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
plot(-10,-10,xlim=c(0,24),ylim=c(0,100),axes=T,at=-1000,
    xlab=expression(paste("Q"[ECMO]," (mL / minute)")),
    ylab=expression(paste("P"[a],"CO"[2]," (mmHg)")),
    pch=19,type="o",cex=0.5)
axis(1,at=seq(0,l,1),labels=F)
axis(2,at=seq(0,100,10),las=2)
minor.tick(10,10,0.5)
text(seq(0,l,1)-0.2, par("usr")[3]-7,
   labels = seq(0,6000,250),srt = 45,
   xpd = TRUE, cex=0.8)
abline(v=seq(0,l,1),col="lightgray",lty=2)
abline(h=seq(0,100,5),col="lightgray",lty=2)
points(1:l,co2,pch=19,type="o",cex=1)
```