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# OUTCOMES OF EXTUBATION AND USING IMMEDIATE NON-INVASIVE VENTILATION (NIV) IN CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE PATIENTS IN RIYADH

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## ABSTRACT

Introduction: Noninvasive ventilation (NIV), as a weaning-facilitating strategy in predominantly chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients who are on mechanical ventilation is associated with reduction of the reintubation rate, length of intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital stay. However, this benefit remains to be elucidated in our country that is why the study was established. The aim of this study was to determine the efficacy of NIV applied immediately after extubation in contrast to oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours in COPD patients. Methods: A quantitative retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted in the NGHA hospital in Riyadh. It was carried out in a 6-month period. Included patients were COPD patients require mechanical ventilation with at least 48 hours. Patients were divided into two groups after extubation (immediate NIV or oxygen devices / NIV>48 hours). We compared both groups regarding PaCO2 and RR after extubation (2-4 hours), reintubation rate, shifting out from ICU. Result: Thirty patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were divided into the two groups. Fifteen patients received NIV immediately after extubation and fifteen patients received oxygen devices/NIV>48 hours after extubation. The reintubation rate was different in each group. None of the patients who received immediate NIV after extubation was reintubated (0%). whereas nine patients who received oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours after extubation were reintubated (60%). ICU length of stay was different in each group. Thirteen patients of immediate NIV group were shifted from ICU (86.7%) whereas only six patients of oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours group were shifted from ICU (40%). Conclusions: In this study, COPD patients who received NIV immediately after extubation with more than 48 hours reduce the reintubation rate and length of ICU stay when compared with the oxygen devices/ NIV>48 hours group.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Immediate use of noninvasive ventilation (NIV) after extubation in critically ill adult patients, especially chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients is associated with the decrease of mortality, reintubation rate, and length of stay in the ICU and hospital. COPD is a chronic respiratory disease which causes irreversible airway obstruction that makes it hard to exhale normally due to narrowing of airways (1,2). The main cause of COPD is smoking cigarettes or exposure to smoking (3).

\*Corresponding author: Salem Alqahtani Respiratory Therapy Department, College of Applied Medical Sciences, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that COPD will become the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2030 (4). In Saudi Arabia, about 2.4% of the population are affected by COPD (5). If there is an acute COPD exacerbation which cannot be maintained by pharmacological agents and non-invasive ventilation, the patient would require invasive ventilation. Once the exacerbation is relieved, the patient should be extubated and put on NIV (6).

COPD patients are presented with progressive airflow obstruction that is incompletely reversible (7). The airflow obstruction is mainly caused by noxious particles and other gases that cause an inflammatory response of the lungs. Moreover, smokers who are above forty years old have a higher chance to get COPD, which produces significant systemic consequences (8). According to American Thoracic Society (ATS) and Global initiative for term Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (GOLD) guidelines the use of the term COPD to include both emphysema and chronic bronchitis (8.9). Emphysema is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by over inflation and gradually causes damage of the air sacs (alveoli) in the lungs, causing a dysfunction in the lung (10,11). Chronic bronchitis is a condition that is characterized by the presence of chronic productive coughing that lasts for at least three months for up to two years (12). However, treatment of COPD depends on the patient's status and the severity of the disease. COPD and its exacerbation can be diagnosed with a combination of interview, physical examination, chest radiograph, blood tests, simple spirometry and electrocardiogram (ECG) (7). Management can be done by pharmacological agents and/or mechanical ventilation. Severe COPD has to be treated by noninvasive or invasive ventilation as required (14). Once the exacerbation is relieved, weaning from invasive ventilation should be done as early as possible. If it is not done, it can lead to ventilator dependency (15). From volume control mode Pressure support ventilation trial is given if tolerated then extubate (16).

Extubation is removal of endotracheal tube in invasive mechanical ventilation when it is no longer required (7). After Extubation, NIV should be used for better outcomes (7).

Non-Invasive Mechanical Ventilation (NIV) is defined as noninvasive positive pressure ventilation that delivers mechanical ventilation by a nasal or face mask (17). NIV is subdivided into continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and biphasic positive airway pressure (BIPAP) (18). CPAP applies only one pressure during the respiratory cycle (18). Also, generation of positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) in CPAP will decrease work of breath and auto PEEP in COPD patients (19).BIPAP is NIV mode based on time cycling between two level of pressure, inspiratory positive airway pressure (IPAP), expiratory positive airway pressure (EPAP) (20). IPAP applies during inspiration that assists breathing which means patient can breathe with less effort (18). EPAP prevent airway collapse during expiration (18). Using BIPAP in COPD patients is more effective than CPAP because it improves the arterial PO2, O2 saturation, and avoiding endotracheal intubation (21). Several studies have proven that early use of NIV decreases the rate of mortality and need for invasive mechanical ventilation (22,23).

There are many previous studies which suggest that using noninvasive mechanical ventilation with COPD on patients who have acute exacerbation is helpful and beneficial for them (24,25). Another similar study which is published in 2009 reported that early extubation with instant usage of NIV compared with invasive mechanical ventilation weaning with t-piece for patients with respiratory failure (26). It stated that as compared with invasive ventilation weaning, NIV weaning resulted in minimized mortality, a reduction in the duration of staying in the ICU, and reduced the chances of getting ventilator associated pneumonia VAP (26).

NIV is considered as a primary treatment for CODP patients who are mechanically ventilated. The effeteness and success of NIV for COPD patients is determined by the disease type, severity of the disease, secretion management, team professionalism and the daily hours of using NIV (27,28).

The study was planned and proposed because there is insufficiency of data with respect to the effect of extubation and immediate use of NIV on COPD patients. The results of the study will provide possible evidence on advantages of extubation followed by immediate NIV.

The objectives of this research were to compare the efficacy of NIV with the oxygen mask in preventing reintubation, and decrease ICU length of stay if NIV was used immediately after extubation in patients with COPD requiring mechanical ventilation for more than 48hours and to evaluate the differences between the study groups concerning ICU length of stay.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study was a cross-sectional study based on the National Guard Health Affairs NGHA hospital in Riyadh. Our research was approved by Institutional Review Board, registered number was (SP17/222/R). Inclusion criteria of this study were all COPD patients who used oral tracheal mechanical ventilation (female and male) between 18-90 years old, during the study period of 2014-2015-2016. We excluded all COPD patients outside the ICU in NGHA, patient with VAP and patients with tracheostomy. Therefore, all COPD patients with invasive mechanical ventilation (more than 48 hours) in the ICU of NGHA were selected for the study. The sample size of this study was calculated to include 60 intubated COPD patients. After extubation, the patients categorized into two groups based on the initiation of NIV. Consecutive sampling was taken from the medical files and Best Care (digital files) during 2014, 2015 and 2016. All the data collected retrospectively from the medical charts. Then, the data were entered into Microsoft Excel sheet and exported into SPSS statistical software version 22 for analysis of data. The tables and figures were used to represent the result. Descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation were used for continuous variables. Categorical variables were represented as frequencies and percentages. Appropriate statistical test was used depending on the type of variable. Both groups were compared regarding reintubation rate, ICU length of stay, ABG and vital signs after extubation. The different variables before and after extubation were compared using student's 't' test based on normality of the collected data.

#### THE RESULT

Over the 6-month study period, a total of 60 patients are diagnosed with COPD in three years (2014-2015-2016) admitted to the ICU required mechanical ventilation (orotracheal intubation) for period more than 48 hours. Thirty of them fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were divided into the two groups. Fifteen patients received NIV immediately after extubation and fifteen patients received oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours after extubation (figure1).

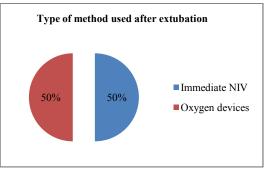


Figure 1 Type of method used after extubation

Eleven patients were male (36.7%) while 19 patients were female (63.3%). Mean age was  $72.97\pm10.486$ year old (table1). Minimum age was 52 year and the maximum age was 89 year (table1).

 Table 1 Demography of study Subjects

Variable Gender	Number of patient	Percentage
Male	11	36.7
Female	19	63.3
Total	30	100.0
Age (in years)	Mean	SD
	72.97	10.486
	Minimum age	Maximum age
	52	89

Mean PaCO2 after 2-4 hours from extubation was  $51.21\pm$ 15.07mm Hg in the immediate NIV group and  $49.27\pm$  8.66 mm Hg in the Oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours group (P = 0.670) (table2).

Mean respiratory rate after 2-4 hours was  $23.13\pm$  7.49breaths/min in the immediate NIV group and  $23.73\pm$  4.57 breaths/min in the Oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours group (P = 0.793) (table2).

 
 Table 2 Comparison of PaCO2 and RR values after 2-4 in the two groups

Variable	Type of method used after extubation	Mean±SD	Test statistic	P value	
PaCO2	Immediate NIV	51.21±15.07	T=	0.670	
2-4 hours	Oxygen device	49.27±8.66	0.432	0.070	
RR	Immediate NIV	23.13±7.49	T= -	0.793	
2-4 hours	Oxygen device	23.73±4.57	.265	0.795	

The reintubation rate was different in each group. None of the patients who received immediate NIV after extubation was reintubated, whereas nine patients who received oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours after extubation were reintubated (60%) (table 3).ICU length of stay was different in each group. Thirteen patients of immediate NIV group were shifted from ICU (86.7%) whereas only six patients of oxygen devices or NIV>48 hours group were shifted from ICU (40%) (table 3).

Table 3 Outcomes for the study groups

Outcomes	Immediate NIV (n=15)	Oxygen devices or NIV >48 hours (n=15)
Reintubation rate, number (%)	0 (0)	9(60%)
shifting out from ICU, number (%)	13(86.7%)	6(40%)

#### DISCUSSION

Our study results support the immediate use of NIV after extubation in COPD patients more effective than oxygen devices. Also, the primary objective of the study was to prevent reintubation and to shift them out from ICU.The similar researches which were published recently proved that using NIV after immediate extubation has positive outcomes comparing with O2 therapy in patients with acute respiratory failure (29). The immediate application of NIV after extubation decreases the length of stay in ICU and the incidence of reintubation (26). NIV maintain the airway open and it improves oxygenation as well as ventilation. Moreover, vital signs and arterial blood gas result are better in patients who reserved NIV. Ornico et al in 2013 examined all acute respiratory failure patients and reported that using NIV after immediate extubationwas more beneficial (29). They did not apply all CPAP types and emphasized only on nasal CPAP (29). We found that86.7% of COPD patients who received NIV immediately after extubation were shifted out from ICU compared to 40% of patients who received O2 therapy immediately after extubation. 20% of patients on O2 therapy were reintubated versus 0% with NIV. This study showed that the significant success of early NIV using after extubation improves the ventilation and oxygenation due to continuous pressure which keep the airway open (21). Consequently, it prevents respiratory muscle fatigue, lung collapse incidence and respiratory distress. It is important that NIV should be used immediately after extubation. We hope that in the future the researchers publish more studies about the adverse effects of using immediate O2 therapy after extubation.

#### Limitations and strengths

Certain limitations of this research must be recognized. First, the sample size of patients was small. Sample size of 15 in each group. Also, some data was missing that reduce the statistical power, and have significant effect on conclusion. Conclusion

Noninvasive ventilation compared with oxygen device is beneficial in prevent reintubation and decreased ICU length of stay if done immediately after extubation in COPD patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation for more than 48 hours.

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