

# CO<sub>2</sub> EXTRACORPOREAL TREATMENT. AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF RESPIRATORY SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS PRESENTING EXACERBATION OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE: CLINICAL CASE PRESENTATION

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**ABSTRACT.** This article presents the case of a patient with exacerbation of chronic respiratory failure due to exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), possibly secondary to a viral infection. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the effective method of decarboxylation, Co<sub>2</sub> (EEO<sub>2</sub>) extracorporeal treatment compared with non-invasive ventilation method that has been used for years in ICUs.

**KEYWORDS:** Exacerbation of chronic respiratory failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, non-invasive ventilation, decarboxylation.

## INTRODUCTION

CO<sub>2</sub> extracorporeal treatment -decarboxylation is based on the high diffusion coefficient of CO<sub>2</sub> [1], 20 times higher compared to O<sub>2</sub>, this coefficient is directly proportional to the solubility of the gas in the liquid, and inversely proportional to the square of the molecular weight. This feature of the CO<sub>2</sub> makes possible the rapid traverse to a lower pressure gradient (approximately 5 cm H<sub>2</sub>O) of the molecule through the alveolo-capillary membrane [2], resulting in CO<sub>2</sub> a diffusible pulmonary capacity of 400ml / min / m<sup>2</sup>. [3]

EEO<sub>2</sub> is an invasive method which involves installing a double lumen venous central catheter, at least 13 Fr, usually into the femoral vein [4,5], the blood is brought by a cartridge blood pump containing a filter that is made of propylmethylpentan, with an area of 1.8 m<sup>2</sup> and coated with a surfactant phosphorylcholine [6]. This filter is thought to have the role of alveolocapillary membrane [7], which diffuses CO<sub>2</sub> and subsequently removes it from the organism. The image below shows the EEO<sub>2</sub> device ProLung which performs, after having fitted the kit and the filter and circuit have been activated [8].



The process employed may record the removal of CO<sub>2</sub> by measuring the expiratory flow of CO<sub>2</sub> by Prolung -meter, the elimination of CO<sub>2</sub> depends on blood

flow provided by the blood pump [9], the maximum value being 400 ml/min,[10] and by the air flow intake - the maximum value of 15L/min [11]. The purpose of this

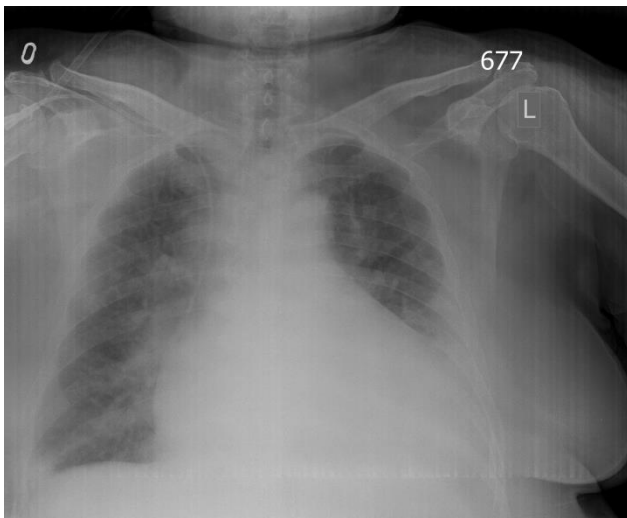
procedure is to remove CO<sub>2</sub> at a higher constant flow of over 100 ml/min [12].

Decarboxylation requires, as any purification procedure, systemic anticoagulation with heparin administration (bolus or continuous) monitoring APTT - maintaining it within the range of 60-80 sec, this process can be used up to 5 days. [13]

## MATERIAL

Is represented by P.R., 61 year old patient, who was admitted to the ICU emergency. On admission the patient is sleepy with a Glasgow score of about 13 (R.V3, R.M6, R.O4) is hemodynamically stable, and perioral cyanosis of the extremities shows, as well as a degree of shortness of breath. Listeners can detect a murmur vesicular overly attached, tightened without the crackles. Anamnesis shows that the patient presented last week, at home, episodes of cough with fever for which she took anti-inflammatory medication, antipyretic and antibiotic, and that she is known to have COPD for many years, for which they administer O<sub>2</sub> at home.

Laboratory samples are as follows: leukocytes 5,600, urea 45 mg/dl, creatine 1.11mg/dl, Glucose 137 mg /dl, Hg23 g/dl, Ht 63% Astrupp parameters indicating respiratory acidosis pH of 7.22, pCO<sub>2</sub> 120 mmHg pO<sub>2</sub>, 88mmhg , HCO<sub>3</sub>-50.3meq.,lactic ac 0.57 mg/dl. Chest radiography (see picture below).



*Interpretation Rx./ right subclavian catheter. Intercleidoilar buckling right infrahilarar right. Peribronhovascular emphasized bilateral interstitial perihilar. Cord diameter increased rack and wiped aortic button.*

Eco cord- right ventricle dilated 3.6 cm diameter. in diast.,

moderate tricuspid regurgitation, pulmonary artery voltage of 56 mmHg, the left ventricle increased in volume, with a diameter of 5.6 cm in diastole, but with an ejection fraction 50%

The following diagnoses is established:

- chronic obstructive stage 4 bronchopneumonia
- chronic exacerbation of respiratory failure
- global heart failure NYHA 4
- chronic pulmonary heart
- tricuspid insufficiency
- average Pulmonary Hypertension
- hypercapnia encephalopathy
- pneumonia, possible viral aetiology
- stage III Obesity

The non-invasive ventilation therapy is established - using BiPAP non-invasive manner simultaneously with antibioterapia- cefoperazone-sulbactam 2 moxifloxacin 500 mg GLA and 12 hour day, oseltamivir at 12 hour 1TB, 125 mg methylprednisolone cortico-therapy- initially intravenous infusion, then 50 mg i.v slow at 6 hours, with declining doses after 3 days bronchodilatory treatment consisting of salbutamol six puffs each (90ug / puff) 6h combined with Miofilin 125 mg each intravenous infusion at 12 hours, corticosteroid inhalation consisting of Simbicort 1 puff each at 12h , ranitidine 50 mg i.v gastric protection at 12 hours and I sc Fraxiparine 0.6ml ampoule per day, for the prophylaxis of venous thromboembolism. The patient is monitored clinically and in terms of parameters Astrupp, tracheobronchial secretions are collected.

At 24 hours from the beginning of intensive respiratory and non-invasive ventilator therapy it is a slight improvement observed, clinical and laboratory pCO<sub>2</sub> of 85 mmHg and pO<sub>2</sub> 120 mm Hg, 7.36 pH, but after 3 days the patient's condition worsens despite non-invasive ventilation and respiratory intensive treatment, showing profound drowsiness, 115 mmHg and pH of 7.23, thus the decarboxylation process is set which consists of CO<sub>2</sub> extracorporeal treatment using the Pro-Long device.

## METHOD

To detect the efficiency of the process of decarboxylation, in this clinical case, it was determined at equal time intervals the pCO<sub>2</sub> and pH values, in the case of the two methods of non-invasive ventilatory support versus the decarboxylation process. The tables and charts below present the comparison of these values.

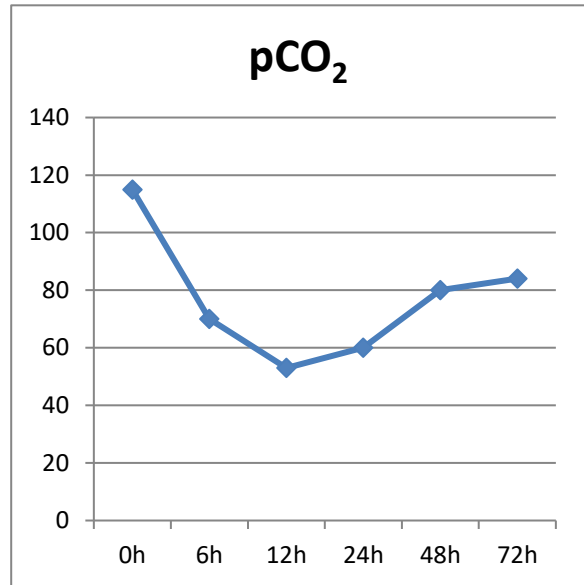
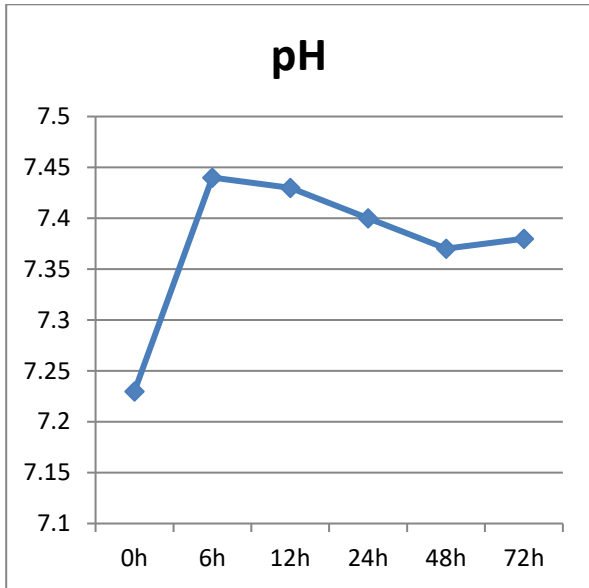
## RESULTS

The table below shows the values of pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> in the case of using decarboxylation process.

HOUR	00	06h	12h	24h	48h	72h
pH	7.23	7.44	7.43	7.40	7.37	7.38

<b>pCO<sub>2</sub></b>	115	70	53	60	80	84
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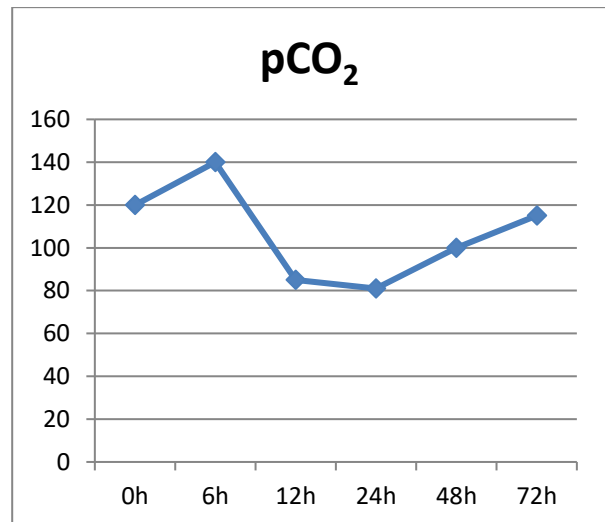
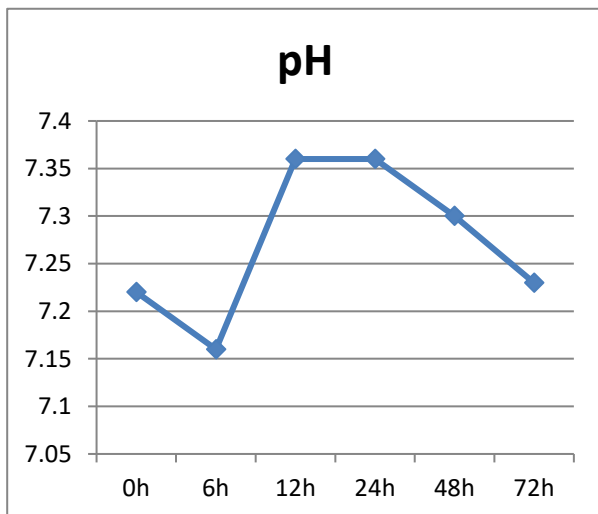
The charts below are variations in pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> in the case of the decarboxylation procedure, there is a rapid drop of CO<sub>2</sub> in blood in the first hour with increasing pH, followed by a stabilization of pCO<sub>2</sub> at around 80 mm Hg with a pH in the normal value range. Well mentioned, this pCO<sub>2</sub> value was well tolerated by the patient, allowing a favorable evolution. The inspiratory air flow was initially at 10L/min, subsequently dropped to 6L/min, then after 24 hours it was increased to 14L/min to ensure a constant CO<sub>2</sub> removal of 100ml / min, the blood pump flow being maintained at 200ml/min.



The table below represents the variation pCO<sub>2</sub> and pH in non-invasive ventilation.

<b>HOUR</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>06h</b>	<b>12h</b>	<b>24h</b>	<b>48h</b>	<b>72h</b>
<b>pH</b>	7.22	7.16	7.36	7.36	7.3	7.23
<b>pCO<sub>2</sub></b>	120	140	85	81	100	115

The graphs below represent the variation in pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> in the case of non-invasive ventilation, it is observed that after a slight improvement, pCO<sub>2</sub> starts to increase reaching a value 115 mmHg, which was poorly tolerated by patients and that determined a pH of 7.24, therefore a decarboxylation procedure needed to be established.



## CONCLUSIONS

In the case of this patient, the invasive extracorporeal CO<sub>2</sub> removal procedure -decarboxylation, which was established when non-invasive ventilation failed, allowed a favorable evolution, in that it allowed an efficient and controlled removal of CO<sub>2</sub> and thus avoided orotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation.

Clearly decarboxylation, as well as mechanical ventilation (invasive or non-invasive), need to be regarded as therapy for respiratory support, such as anti-infectives, anti-inflammatory, bronchodilator, nutritional support and the rest of the respiratory therapy adjuvant remain important as well in the evolution of these cases.

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