

Non-invasive Positive Pressure Ventilation Review

NIPPV: Delivers O₂ rich gas to alveoli under pressure through a non-invasive interface such as a mask, hood, or nasal pillow

CPAP:
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure [mm H₂O]

Indications:
Type 1 [Hypoxemic] Respiratory Failure

Settings:

Set the CPAP level [analogous to PEEP]

Range: 5-25 mm H₂O

Typical: 5-15

Set the FiO₂

Range: 21-100%

BPAP:
Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure [mm H₂O]

Indications:
Type 2 [Hypercapnic] Respiratory Failure OR Mixed Type 1 & 2 Failure

Settings:

Set the Inspiratory IPAP level

Typical: 7-20 mm H₂O

Set the Expiratory EPAP level [analogous to PEEP/CPAP]

Typical: 3-15 mm H₂O

Set the FiO₂: 21-100%

High Flow Nasal Cannula:
Heated and humidified oxygen delivery

Indications:
Type 1 [Hypoxemic] Respiratory Failure, CPAP/BPAP intolerance, DNR/DNI

Settings:

Set the Flow Rate:

Typical: 20 - 60 L/min

Set the FiO₂

Range: 21-100%

Titration:
Titrate CPAP and FiO₂ to optimize patient's oxygenation as well as work of breathing

Titration:
 $IPAP - EPAP = \Delta PAP \sim Tidal Volume$
Titrate IPAP, EPAP and FiO₂ to optimize patient's oxygenation as well as work of breathing
Titrate ΔPAP to increase/decrease TV and thus CO₂ levels

NIPPV Fun Facts:

- For suspected COVID: place a surgical mask or clear bag over the mask to decrease travel distance of infectious particles
- BPAP machines are sophisticated: can set I:E ratio, flow rates, and minimum respiratory rate
- May decrease both preload and afterload
- May decrease blood pressure

Contraindications: Hemodynamic instability, inability to protect airway, vomiting, facial trauma, upper airway obstruction