# **Respiratory Physiology**

**Dr. Lwin Aye Thet** 



#### **INSPIRATION**





#### **INSPIRATION**

#### **EXPIRATION**





male



#### helium dilution



#### Dead space

• Primary function of lungs: gas exchange

 gas exchange: only in the terminal portions of the airways (alveoli equilibrated with pulmonary capillaries)

• Area (no gas exchange): dead space

Dead space

of two types

- (1) Anatomical dead space
  - volume of air occupying the space from the external nares to the terminal bronchioles, i.e. in the conducting zone
  - 150 ml in both sexes
  - approximately equal to BW in Ib
  - increased in tubing inhalation (e.g. diving)
- (2) Total dead space (Physiological dead space)

   volume of gas not equilibrated with blood (e.g. lungs diseases)
  - diseases: Alveolar dead space

Normally: Anatomical DS = Physiological DS

Pulmonary ventilation (Respiratory minute volume: RMV)

**Alveolar ventilation** 

Alveolar ventilation

$$= (TV - DS) X RR$$
  
= (500 - 150) X 12

= 4.2 L/min

# Effect of variation in respiratory rate and depth on alveolar ventilation

- RR = 30 RR = 10
- TV = 200ml

TV = 600

#### Minute volume = 6 L/mim

**Alveolar ventilation** 

Alveolar ventilation

- = (200-150) x 30
- = 1500 ml/min

- = (600-150) x 10
- = 4500 ml/min

### Which is better? rapid & shallow vs slow & deep

#### Resistance of the lungs and chest

- 1. Elastic resistance
  - resistance offered by stretching the elastic tissues of the chest wall and lungs (65%)
    (ST = 2/3 of ER)
- 2. Non-elastic resistance
  - resistance offered by the inelastic tissues of the lungs and the chest wall (7%)
- 3. Airway resistance
  - resistance to air flow offered by the respiratory passage (28%)

### Work of breathing

Work

- is performed by the respiratory muscles in stretching the elastic tissues of the chest wall and lungs, moving inelastic tissues and moving air through the respiratory passages.
- can be calculated from relaxation pressure curves: Work = pressure x volume

Work of breathing

# work = force x distance force = pressure x area work = pressure x area x distance

# work = pressure x volume



**Hysteresis loop** 

**AXBCA** 

Total work of breathing - 0.3 to 0.8 kgm-m/min Work of breathing

Increased: during exercise

Increased: emphysema, asthma, congestive heart failure with dyspnoea and orthopnoea

### Compliance

- is the change in lung volume per unit change in airway pressure
- is slightly greater when measured during deflation than measured during inflation



### Compliance



# as a measure of distensibility (stretchibility) of lungs and thorax



Static expiratory pressure-volume curve

- surfactant deficiency

### **Compliance and ST**



### **PULMONARY CIRCULATION**

- Pulmonary vascular system is a low pressure distensible system
- Pulmonary arterial pressure is about 24/9 mmHg. Mean pressure is about 15 mmHg. (Recall that systemic arterial pressure = about 120/70mmHg).
- the volume of blood in the pulmonary vessels at any one time = about 1 L (Pulmonary reservoir)
- on lying down = is increased by 400 ml
  = 1000 + 400 = 1400 ml

# PULMONARY CIRCULATION

- Cardiac output (CO) of the right ventricle = Pul. BF = 5.5 L /min at rest.
- Mean velocity at the root of pulmonary artery = 40 cm/sec
- Traverse time at rest (pul. capillaries)= 0.75 second
- Traverse time during exercise = 0.3 second





#### **Supine position: Posterior - better perfusion**









Break



#### **UPRIGHT POSTURE**

### Ventilation (V) : Base > Apex

### Perfusion (Q) : Base > Apex

# Ventilation



Inspired Air = 1 ATM (760 mmHg)  $O_2 = 20.98\%$ : 0.21 x 760 = 160 mmHg  $CO_2 = 0.04\%$ : 0.0004 x 760 = 0.3 mmHg

### **Ventilation – perfusion Relationship**

For adequate respiration: air and blood delivered to the lungs: proper proportion

#### Each minute at rest:

Alveolar ventilation: about 4 L/min Perfusion (CO): about 5 L/min

V:Q ratio = 4/5 = 0.8 (overall)





#### Gas exchange: absolute < V-Q ratio

Тор

Base

- V:Q ratio = 3.3
  V:Q ratio = 0.63
- OVERVENTILATED in relation to blood flow

• UNDERVENTILATED in relation to blood flow

WASTED VENTILATION



#### V-Q ratio

#### WASTED PERFUSION (e.g. Base of Lungs) V < Q

**Alveolar PO<sub>2</sub> = falls** 

### Less O<sub>2</sub> delivered

**Alveolar PCO<sub>2</sub> = rises** 

### Less CO<sub>2</sub> expired



#### WASTED VENTILATION (eg. Top of lungs) V > Q

#### V-Q ratio

Alveolar  $PO_2 = rises$  Less  $O_2$  enters the bld

Alveolar  $PCO_2 = falls$  Less  $CO_2$  is delivered



#### V-Q ratio

#### WASTED VENTILATION

### Alveolar PO<sub>2</sub> = rises

#### **Alveolar PCO<sub>2</sub> = falls**



### Top alveoli :

- High V:Q ratio
- Wasted ventilation
- Predilection of tuberculosis in

the apex of the lungs

#### Normal lungs

#### Тор

- V:Q ratio = 3.3
- OVERVENTILATED in relation to blood flow

#### BASE

- V:Q ratio = 0.63
- UNDERVENTILATED in relation to blood flow
- WASTED VENTILATION WASTED PERFUSION

### Magnitude of wastage

- Even in normal lungs: +
  - Diseased lungs: +++

### Diseased Lungs: gross increase in scatters of ratios



Mismatched or imbalance between V and Q

HYPOXIC HYPOXIA



# **Physiologic Shunt**

• Pulmonary arteries: deoxygenated blood

• Pulmonary veins: oxygenated blood

# **Physiologic Shunt**



Control of Pulmonary circulation

- Neural control: Sympathetic vasoconstrictor nerve fibres from cervical sym. ganglion
- Humoral control: pulmonary arterioles
  - NA: VC
  - AT II (angiotensin II): VC
  - Ach: VD
  - Isoproterenol: VD
- Humoral control: pulmonary venules
  - Serotonin, histamine, endotoxin

Local hypoxia and hypercapnia (VDM)

Pulmonary vasoconstriction

## PULMONARY GAS TRANSFER

- Pulmonary membrane (Alveolar-capillary membrane)
- It is a very thin membrane across which O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> diffuse.
- It consists of:
  - 1. Capillary endothelium
  - 2. Fused basement membranes of 1 and 3
  - 3. Alveolar epithelium
  - 4. A layer of thin film of fluid lining the alveoli



# Ventilation



Inspired Air = 1 ATM (760 mmHg)  $O_2 = 20.98\%$ : 0.21 x 760 = 160 mmHg  $CO_2 = 0.04\%$ : 0.0004 x 760 = 0.3 mmHg

#### Pulmonary gas exchange (transfer)







 $PO_2 = 95 \text{ mmHg};$  $PCO_2 = 40 \text{ mmHg}$ 

 $PO_2 = 40 \text{ mmHg}$ 

 $PCO_2 = 46 \text{ mmHg}$ 

Tissue gas exchange

### **Diffusing Capacity**

- Diffusing capacity (a Transfer factor) is the amount of gas which crosses the alveolar membrane per minute per mmHg difference in partial pressure gradient between alveolus and blood in the pulmonary capillary.
- Normal values of diffusing capacity
- For  $O_2$ : T $O_2 = 20 30$  ml/min/mm Hg
- For  $CO_2$  :  $TCO_2 = 500 \text{ ml/min/mmHg}$
- DC is directly proportionate to **surface area** of A-C membrane and inversely proportionate to **thickness**

### **Factors affecting Gas Transfer**

Gas diffusion is DIRECTLY proportionate to

- partial pressure gradient
- ✤ area of diffusion
- membrane permeability
- gas solubility
- amount of Hb
- rate of uptake of gas by Hb
- temperature (to a limit)

### **Factors affecting Gas Transfer**

Gas diffusion is INDIRECTLY proportionate to

molecular weight of the diffusing gas

length of the diffusion path

(eg. thickness of the alveolar membrane)

### **Gas transport**

O<sub>2</sub> transport

- Forms: dissolved, combined with Hb (**oxyHb**)
- At rest: 250 ml of  $O_2$  /min (from blood to tissues)

CO<sub>2</sub> transport

- Forms: dissolved, combined with Hb (carbamino compound), HCO<sub>3</sub>
- At rest: 200 ml of CO<sub>2</sub> /min (from tissues to lungs)

# Thank you