
COPD

- most common cause of cor pulmonale
 - RV afterload ↑
 - can occur even in mild disease/'normal' lungs
 - exercise limitation may be due to RV dysfunction rather than respiratory insufficiency
 - disproportionate haemodynamic collapse after intubation in the patient with COPD or respiratory failure may reflect RV dysfunction
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ARDS

- acute cor pulmonale in 20-25%
 - direct injury to pulmonary circulation ↑PVR, worsened by hypoxia/hypercapnia
 - 'RV protective' approach
 - PEEP is manipulated in parallel with echo assessment of RV
 - plateau pressure <27, driving pressure <18 [cmH₂O]
 - beware high RR
 - prone positioning
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