



## **Sedation during mechanical ventilation**

Sedation during mechanical ventilation is a common procedure used to ensure that patients remain comfortable and do not experience any distress or pain while on a ventilator. This can be particularly important for patients who are critically ill or who are undergoing surgery.

Sedation is typically administered by a trained medical professional, such as a physician or nurse, and may involve the use of many different classes of medications. The type and amount of medication used will depend on the individual patient's needs and medical history, as well as the goals of the sedation.

While sedation can be very effective at relieving discomfort and promoting relaxation, it does carry some risks. These risks may include decreased breathing rate, blood pressure, and heart rate, as well as potential complications related to the medication itself. It is important for patients to be closely monitored during sedation to ensure that any potential problems are identified and addressed promptly.

In addition to monitoring vital signs, healthcare providers may also assess patients' level of consciousness and responsiveness while under sedation. This can help ensure that the sedation is working as intended and that the patient remains comfortable and pain-free.

New evidence suggest that heavy sedation for prolonged periods might carry risk of delirium, weakness and other adverse long term outcomes. New trends are to focus more on pain and light sedation with daily wakeup call if tolerated.

Patients who undergo sedation during mechanical ventilation should be aware of the potential risks and benefits of the procedure, and should discuss any concerns or questions with their healthcare provider. They should also be aware of any potential side effects or complications associated with the medications used and should report any new or worsening symptoms to their healthcare team immediately.

Overall, sedation during mechanical ventilation can be an important tool for promoting patient comfort and well-being, but it should be used judiciously and with appropriate monitoring to ensure patient safety.