



Neurological assessment & acute rehabilitation

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A faint, sepia-toned illustration of a human spine is visible in the background, curving from the top left towards the center. Below the spine, a hand is shown holding an open book. The text "Neurological assessment: ISNCSCI" is overlaid on the lower part of the illustration.

Neurological assessment: ISNCSCI

ISNCSCI

(International Standards for the Neurological Classification of Spinal Cord Injury)

“ Accepted as the most **accurate** and **reliable** instrument for documenting neurologic status following SCI ”

ISNCSCI

- **Major revisions** of the standards were completed in **1992, 1996, and 2000**
- **Minor revisions** of the standards were completed in **2002, 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2013**

Muscle Function Grading

- 0** = total paralysis
- 1** = palpable or visible contraction
- 2** = active movement, full range of motion (ROM) with gravity eliminated
- 3** = active movement, full ROM against gravity
- 4** = active movement, full ROM against gravity and moderate resistance in a muscle specific position
- 5** = (normal) active movement, full ROM against gravity and full resistance in a functional muscle position expected from an otherwise unimpaired person
- 5*** = (normal) active movement, full ROM against gravity and sufficient resistance to be considered normal if identified inhibiting factors (i.e. pain, disuse) were not present
- NT** = not testable (i.e. due to immobilization, severe pain such that the patient cannot be graded, amputation of limb, or contracture of > 50% of the normal ROM)

Sensory Grading

- 0** = Absent
- 1** = Altered, either decreased/impaired sensation or hypersensitivity
- 2** = Normal
- NT** = Not testable

When to Test Non-Key Muscles:

In a patient with an apparent AIS B classification, non-key muscle functions more than 3 levels below the motor level on each side should be tested to most accurately classify the injury (differentiate between AIS B and C).

Movement	Root level
Shoulder: Flexion, extension, abduction, adduction, internal and external rotation	C5
Elbow: Supination	
Elbow: Pronation	C6
Wrist: Flexion	
Finger: Flexion at proximal joint, extension.	C7
Thumb: Flexion, extension and abduction in plane of thumb	
Finger: Flexion at MCP joint	C8
Thumb: Opposition, adduction and abduction perpendicular to palm	
Finger: Abduction of the index finger	T1
Hip: Adduction	L2
Hip: External rotation	L3
Hip: Extension, abduction, internal rotation	L4
Knee: Flexion	
Ankle: Inversion and eversion	
Toe: MP and IP extension	
Hallux and Toe: DIP and PIP flexion and abduction	L5
Hallux: Adduction	S1

ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS)

A = Complete. No sensory or motor function is preserved in the sacral segments S4-5.

B = Sensory Incomplete. Sensory but not motor function is preserved below the neurological level and includes the sacral segments S4-5 (light touch or pin prick at S4-5 or deep anal pressure) AND no motor function is preserved more than three levels below the motor level on either side of the body.

C = Motor Incomplete. Motor function is preserved at the most caudal sacral segments for voluntary anal contraction (VAC) OR the patient meets the criteria for sensory incomplete status (sensory function preserved at the most caudal sacral segments (S4-S5) by LT, PP or DAP), and has some sparing of motor function more than three levels below the ipsilateral motor level on either side of the body.
(This includes key or non-key muscle functions to determine motor incomplete status.) For AIS C – less than half of key muscle functions below the single NLI have a muscle grade ≥ 3 .

D = Motor Incomplete. Motor incomplete status as defined above, with at least half (half or more) of key muscle functions below the single NLI having a muscle grade ≥ 3 .

E = Normal. If sensation and motor function as tested with the ISNCSCI are graded as normal in all segments, and the patient had prior deficits, then the AIS grade is E. Someone without an initial SCI does not receive an AIS grade.

Using ND: To document the sensory, motor and NLI levels, the ASIA Impairment Scale grade, and/or the zone of partial preservation (ZPP) when they are unable to be determined based on the examination results.

Steps in Classification

The following order is recommended for determining the classification of individuals with SCI.

1. Determine sensory levels for right and left sides.

The sensory level is the most caudal, intact dermatome for both pin prick and light touch sensation.

2. Determine motor levels for right and left sides.

Defined by the lowest key muscle function that has a grade of at least 3 (on supine testing), providing the key muscle functions represented by segments above that level are judged to be intact (graded as a 5).

Note: in regions where there is no myotome to test, the motor level is presumed to be the same as the sensory level, if testable motor function above that level is also normal.

3. Determine the neurological level of injury (NLI)

This refers to the most caudal segment of the cord with intact sensation and antigravity (3 or more) muscle function strength, provided that there is normal (intact) sensory and motor function rostrally respectively.

The NLI is the most cephalad of the sensory and motor levels determined in steps 1 and 2.

4. Determine whether the injury is Complete or Incomplete.

(i.e. absence or presence of sacral sparing)

If voluntary anal contraction = **No** AND all S4-5 sensory scores = **0** AND deep anal pressure = **No**, then injury is **Complete**.

Otherwise, injury is **Incomplete**.

5. Determine ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS) Grade:

Is injury **Complete**?

If **YES**, AIS=A and can record ZPP (lowest dermatome or myotome on each side with some preservation)

NO ↓

Is injury Motor **Complete**? If **YES**, AIS=B

NO ↓

(No=voluntary anal contraction OR motor function more than three levels below the motor level on a given side, if the patient has sensory incomplete classification)

Are at least half (half or more) of the key muscles below the neurological level of injury graded 3 or better?

NO ↓

AIS=C

YES ↓

AIS=D

If sensation and motor function is normal in all segments, AIS=E

Note: AIS E is used in follow-up testing when an individual with a documented SCI has recovered normal function. If at initial testing no deficits are found, the individual is neurologically intact; the ASIA Impairment Scale does not apply.



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR NEUROLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF SPINAL CORD INJURY



Proper testing position??

SUPINE!!! for valid comparison throughout the phases of care
except for the rectal examination (can be performed side-lying)

In pediatric patients

Child and caregiver must both *understand exam*.

Sit next to the child while explaining.

Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

Where??

- Key sensory points

Where is the reference area??

- Patient's cheek

Which modality??

- Light touch ([tickle](#)) and Pin prick ([pointy](#))

HOW??

- Patient eyes are closed or covered.
- Caregiver stands on contralateral side and hold's the child's attention.
- Starting with light touch then testing pin prick sensation
- First, conduct on yourself.
- Let the child use the pin on you or caregiver.
- caudal-to-rostral sequence

Light touch

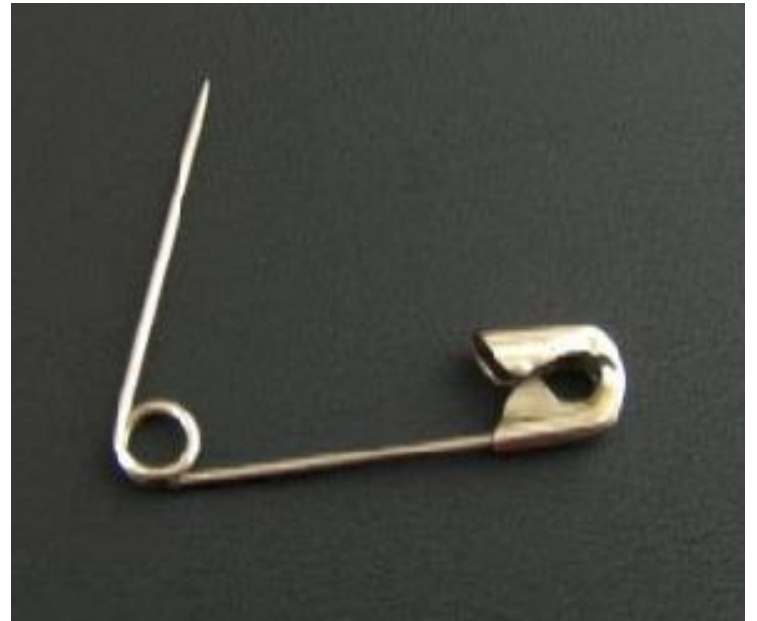
- tapered wisp of cotton
- stroked once, not exceed 1cm



- 0 = absent
- 1 = altered (impaired or partial appreciation, including hyperesthesia)
- 2 = normal or intact (similar as on the cheek)

Pin prick

- disposable safety pin
- stretched apart to allow testing on both ends
- pointed end for sharp, rounded end for dull



- 0 = absent or **inability to distinguish** between dull and sharp sensation (as well as no feeling when being touched by the pin)
- 1 = can distinguish between the sharp and dull edge of the pin, but the pin is not felt as sharp as on the cheek
- 2 = Pin is felt as sharp in the tested dermatome as when tested on the cheek

- If in doubt, **8 out of 10 correct answers** are suggested as a standard for accuracy

Determine Sensory Level

- ***most caudal dermatome*** which light touch and pin prick sensations are **intact**
- if sensation is abnormal at C2 and intact on the face
 - sensory level - **C1**
- if sensation is intact on one side for light touch and pin prick at all dermatomes
 - sensory level - recorded as **“INT (intact)”**

Sensory Level??

	Right		Left	
	Light touch	Pin Prick	Light touch	Pin Prick
C2	2	2	2	2
C3	2	2	1	1
C4	1	2	1	0
C5	1	0	0	0

C3/C2

Pitfalls of the sensory exam in pediatric patients

- Scoliosis
- Pelvic obliquity



Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

Key muscles??

- C5: Elbow flexors (biceps, brachialis)
- C6: Wrist extensors (ECRL and ECRB)
- C7: Elbow extensors (triceps)
- C8: Finger flexors (FDP) to the middle finger
- T1: Small finger abductors (ADM)
 - *not fully developed until age 4 or 5*
- L2: Hip flexors (iliopsoas)
- L3: Knee extensors (quadriceps)
- L4: Ankle dorsiflexors (TA)
- L5: Long toe extensors (EHL)
- S1: Ankle plantar flexors (GCM, soleus)

HOW??

- 0 = total paralysis
- 1 = palpable or visible contraction
- 2 = active movement, full range of motion (ROM)
with gravity eliminated
- 3 = active movement, full ROM against gravity
- 4 = active movement, full ROM against moderate
resistance in a muscle specific position
- 5 = (normal) active movement, full ROM against
full resistance in a muscle specific position
expected from an otherwise unimpaired
person

HOW??

- **5*** = (normal) active movement, full ROM against gravity and sufficient resistance to be considered normal if identified inhibiting factors (i.e. pain, disuse) were not present
- NT = not testable (i.e. due to immobilization, severe pain such that the patient cannot be graded, amputation of limb, or contracture of >50% of the ROM)
- **“Plus” and “Minus” scores are NOT used**

HOW??

- Use an *appropriate amount of resistance*.
- For each motion assessed, demonstrate the requested movement or passively move the patient's body.
- Test for **Grade 3 first**, then move “up” or “down” the scale accordingly
- Place stabilizing and resisting hands accurately

Determine Motor Level

- ***lowest key muscle*** function that has a **grade of at least 3**, and segments **above that level** are judged to be intact (**grades as 5**)

Motor Level??

	Right	Left
C5	5	5
C6	5	4
C7	3	4
C8	3	3

C7/C6

C1-C4, T2-L1, S2-S5?

- motor level is **presumed to be the same as the sensory level** if testable motor function above that level is normal as well

Anorectal exam

Deep Anal Pressure (DAP)

- gentle pressure to the anorectal wall

OR

- gently squeeze the anus against the inserted index finger
- Use the small finger for children *under 3*, inserted shallow.
- Present/Absent
- In patients who have light touch or pin prick sensation at S4-5, examination of DAP is not required

Voluntary anal contraction (VAC)

- Present/Absent
- If, there is VAC present, the patient has a motor incomplete injury
- Caution
 - reflex anal contraction
 - produced by Valsalva maneuver (light and not circular contracted feeling)
 - produced by gluteal contraction

- 10 and younger: parent or caregiver remains in the room.
- Older than 10: ask the patient.

- If a parent or caregiver is not present, have another professional staff member present during the exam.

- Adolescents should have a choice in gender of examiner, if possible.

- **Conduct** anorectal examination **last**.
- Use **family-appropriate terms**.
- Under 8yrs old: use a doll for explanation.

Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

Neurological Level of Injury (NLI)

- most caudal segment with intact sensation and antigravity muscle function strength
- single NLI is the most rostral of 2 sensory levels and 2 motor levels
- sensory level: C6/C5
- motor level: C7/C6
- single NLI: C5

Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury

Sacral Sparing

- presence of sensory or motor function in the most caudal sacral segments
 - preservation of light touch or pin prick sensation at the S4-5
- OR**
- presence of deep anal pressure **OR**
 - presence of voluntary anal contraction
-
- Absence of sacral sparing: Complete injury (AIS A)
 - Presence of sacral sparing: Incomplete injury (AIS B,C,D)

Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

ASIA Impairment Scale (AIS)

- **A = Complete.** No sensory or motor function is preserved in the sacral segments S4-5.
- **B = Sensory Incomplete.** Sensory but not motor function is preserved below the neurological level and includes the sacral segments S4-5, AND no motor function is preserved more than three levels below the motor level on either side of the body.

- **C = Motor Incomplete.** Motor function is preserved below the neurological level*, and more than half of key muscle functions below the single NLI have a muscle *grade less than 3 (Grades 0-2)*.
- **D = Motor Incomplete.** Motor function is preserved below the neurological level*, and at least half (half or more) of key muscle functions below the single NLI have a muscle *grade ≥ 3* .

* For an individual to receive a grade of C or D, they must have

- ① voluntary anal sphincter contraction or
- ② sacral sensory sparing (at S4-5 or DAP) with sparing of *motor function more than 3 levels below the motor level* for that side of the body

E = Normal. If sensation and motor function as tested with the ISNCSCI are graded as normal in all segments, and the patient had prior deficits, then the AIS grade is E.

AIS B or C??

- Sensory level: C5/C5, Motor level: C6/C5, NLI: C5
- S4/5 light touch (+)

	Right	Left
C5	5	4
C6	4	3
C7	2	2
C8	1	1
T1	0	0
L2~S1	0	0

- sparing of motor function more than 3 levels below the motor level for that side of the body? **NO!!**
- **AIS-B**

AIS B or C/D??

- Sensory level: C5/C5, Motor level: C6/C5, NLI: C5
- S4/5 light touch (+)

	Right	Left
C5	5	4
C6	4	3
C7	2	2
C8	1	1
T1	0	1
L2~S1	0	0

- sparing of motor function more than 3 levels below the motor level for that side of the body? **YES!!**
- **AIS-C**

Determine Sensory Level



Determine Motor Level



Determine Single Neurological Level



Determine if Complete or Incomplete Injury



Determine AIS grade



Determine ZPP if complete injury

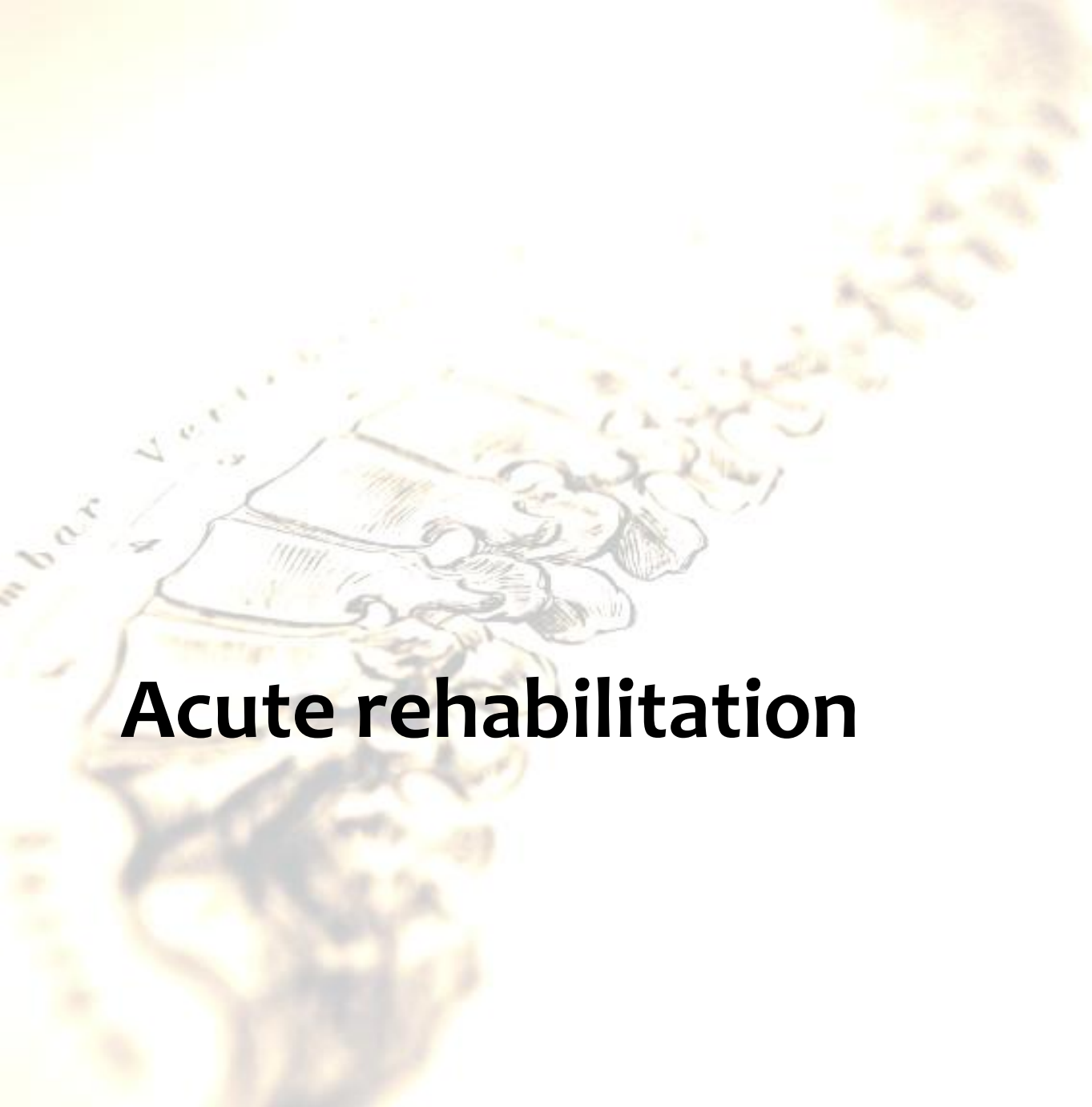
Zone of Partial Preservation (ZPP)

- used only with complete injuries
- dermatomes/myotomes caudal to the sensory and motor levels that remain partially innervated
- “NA” in ZPP boxes for incomplete injuries

Guidelines for use of the ISNCSCI in children

- for reliable and excellent inter-rater agreement
 - *at least 6 years old*
- 4 years & younger
 - motor, sensory level should be estimated
 - use alternative methods to appreciate perianal sensation
- 5 years
 - attempt the exam but stop if indicated
- 6-8 years
 - typically able to complete the exams

Clinicians *should not label* a child *as complete or incomplete* until the child is of an appropriate age to participate in the anorectal exam.



Acute rehabilitation

Orthostatic hypotension

Pulmonary dysfunction

Orthostatic hypotension (OH)?

Classic orthostatic hypotension

(by the American Academy of Neurology and the American Autonomic Society in 1996)

기립 자세 또는 적어도 경사침대에서 60° 이상으로 기립 후
3분 이내에

수축기 혈압 (SBP) $\geq 20\text{mmHg}$

이완기 혈압 (DBP) $\geq 10\text{mmHg}$ 감소되었을 때

Orthostatic hypotension (OH)?

Other variants of orthostatic hypotension

(in the 2011 update)

- initial OH
 - 기립 15초 내에
 - SBP ≥ 40 mmHg
 - DBP ≥ 20 mmHg 이상 감소될 때
- delayed OH
 - 기립 3분 후 증상을 동반한 기립성 저혈압이 나타날 때

- 사지마비
- 완전 손상
- 오랜 침상 안정기간
- 식사 후
- 알코올 섭취 후
- 아침 기상 후
- 뜨거운 환경에 노출된 경우



- 약한 두통
- 어지러움
- 이명
- 시야 혼탁
- 피로감
- 발한
- 오심
- 기절

Pathophysiology

**sympathetic
nervous system
dysfunction**

**loss of skeletal
muscle pumping
activity**

**low catecholamine
levels**

**impaired
function of
baroreceptor**

**hyponatremia,
low plasma
volume**

Habituation to OH

**renin-angiotensin-
aldosterone system**

**peripheral α -
adrenoreceptor
hyperresponsiveness**

**increased
sensitivity of
baroreceptor**

spasticity

Nonpharmacologic treatment

- 약화인자 최소화시키기
- 고염식이
- 압박스타킹 착용
- 복대 착용
- 기능적전기자극치료
- 점진적인 기립 연습시키기
- 자는 동안 상체를 세우기

- ✓ 기립 연습 전 식사는 소량만 섭취
- ✓ 주말에 앉기 연습 지속하기



Nonpharmacologic treatment

- 약화인자 최소화시키기
- 고염식이
- 압박스타킹 착용
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- 점진적인 기립 연습시키기
- 자는 동안 상체를 세우기



Pharmacologic treatment

- α_1 -adrenergic receptor agonist (midodrine)
- mineralocorticoid (fludrocortisone)
- vasoconstrictor (ephedrine)

Pharmacologic treatment

midodrine

- α_1 -adrenergic receptor agonist
 - directly increases BP by arteriolar and venous constriction
- peak plasma concentration level: **1hr**
- half-life of active metabolite (desglymidocrine): 3-4hrs
- initial dose: 2.5mg tid
- side effect: excessive supine hypertension at night
 - taking the last dose at least 4hrs before bedtime

fludrocortisone

- **potent mineralocorticoid** with little glucocorticoid activity
- pressor action **by sodium retention**
 - occurs over several days
 - doses should be altered no faster than on a weekly or biweekly interval
- **↑ sensitivity of arterioles to norepinephrine**

- half life: 2-3hrs
- initial dose: 0.05-0.1 mg/day

- side effect
 - weight gain due to fluid retention
 - hypokalemia (in 50% within 2wks)
 - hypomagnesemia (in 5%)
 - headache
- potential drug interaction with warfarin
- should be avoided in patients with congestive heart failure

ephedrine

- first available orally active **sympathomimetic drug**
- release of stored catecholamine
- nonselective α , β receptor agonist with both central and peripheral action

- initial dose: 25-50mg every 4hrs

- side effect
 - supine hypertension
 - tremulousness
 - palpitations
 - cardiac arrhythmia
 - urinary retention

Orthostatic hypotension

Pulmonary dysfunction

Obstructive lung disease – COPD, asthma

- Oxygenation impairment
- Eucapnic or hypocapnic
- Hypercapnia – only acute respiratory failure or end-stage

Restrictive lung disease – SCI, myopathy, ALS

- Ventilation impairment
- Hypercapnia precede significant hypoxia

Inspiration

Primary muscles

- active during both quiet breathing and exercise

Diaphragm

Intercostal muscles

Accessory muscles

- assist primary muscles under conditions of increased ventilation demand

Scalene

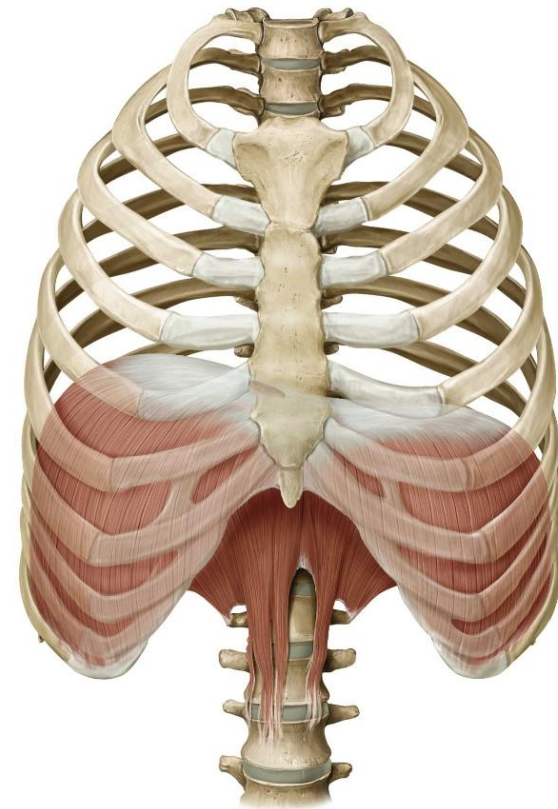
Sternocleidomastoid (SCM)

Trapezius

Pectoralis major

Diaphragm

- Innervation by **phrenic nerve (C3~C5)**
- 65~75% of vital capacity is provided by diaphragm
- Contraction draws the central tendon down
 - flattens the diaphragm
 - increasing the thoracic volume



Accessory muscles

- SCM, Trapezius – CN XI (spinal accessory nerve)
- Scalene – C3~C8
- Pectoralis major – C5~T1
- Less affected after spinal cord injury

- When patient uses his accessory muscles excessively, it is the sign of impending respiratory failure.

Expiration

- Not actively participate in by recoiling power (passive)
- **During forced exhalation**
 - **abdominal pressure increase** (rectus abdominis, transverse abdominis, internal and external oblique abdominal muscle)
 - push upward the diaphragm

Respiratory Failure

I. Abrupt Respiratory Failure

High cervical, complete injury (C1~C3)

Sudden ventilator failure

→ Intubation / tracheostomy



**Inspiration
Failure !**

II. Acute / Recurrent Respiratory Failure

III. Late-onset Respiratory Failure

I. Abrupt Respiratory Failure

II. Acute / Recurrent Respiratory Failure

above C3 (incomplete) / C4~C6

mucous plugging / infection

→ Tracheostomy

III. Late-onset Respiratory Failure



**Expectoration
Failure !**

I. Abrupt Respiratory Failure

II. Acute / Recurrent Respiratory Failure

III. Late-onset Respiratory Failure

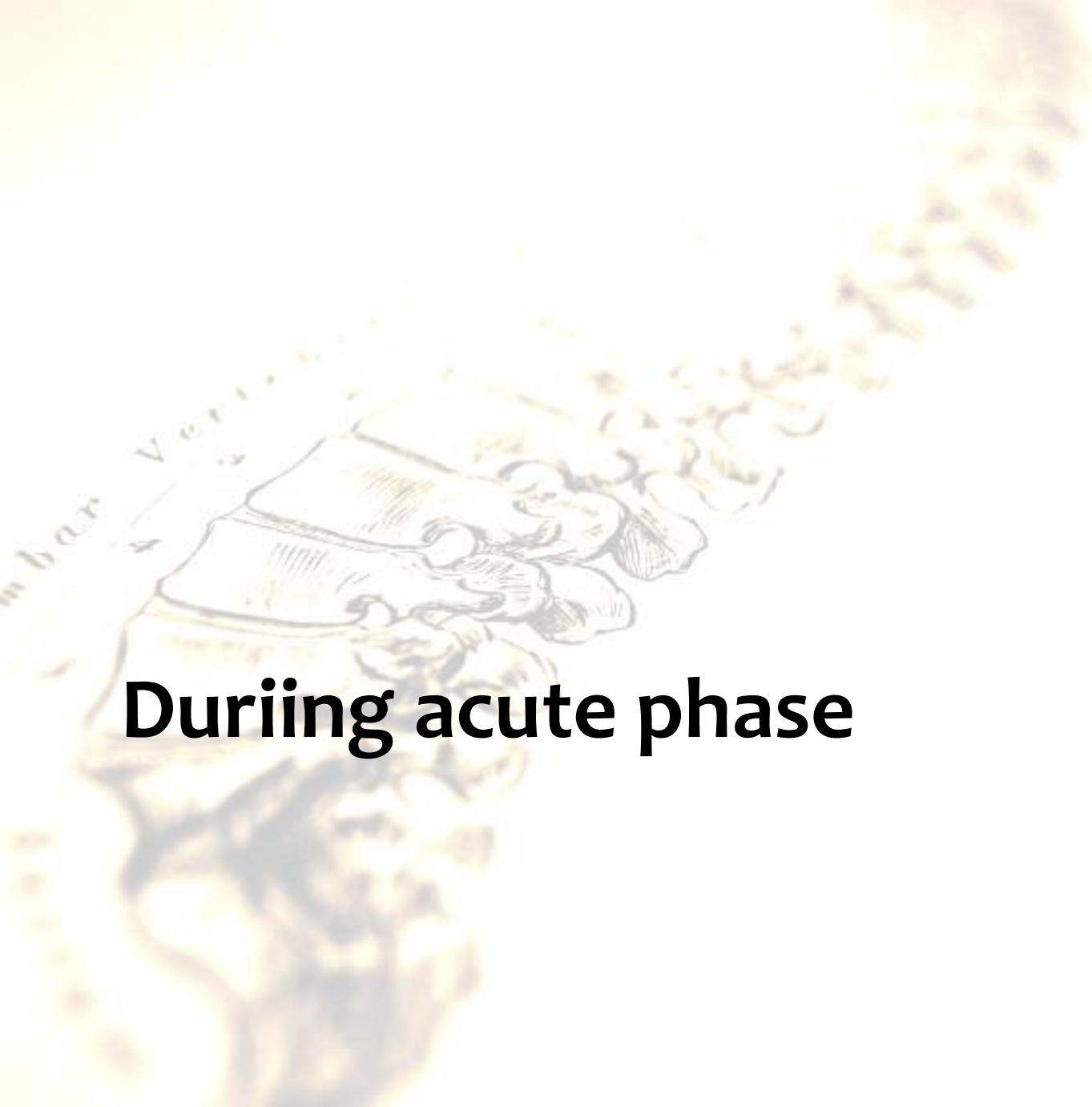
Chronic hypoventilation

→ Respiratory muscle fatigue !

→ Need ventilator support



Fatigue!



During acute phase

1. Muscle weakness

2. Atelectasis

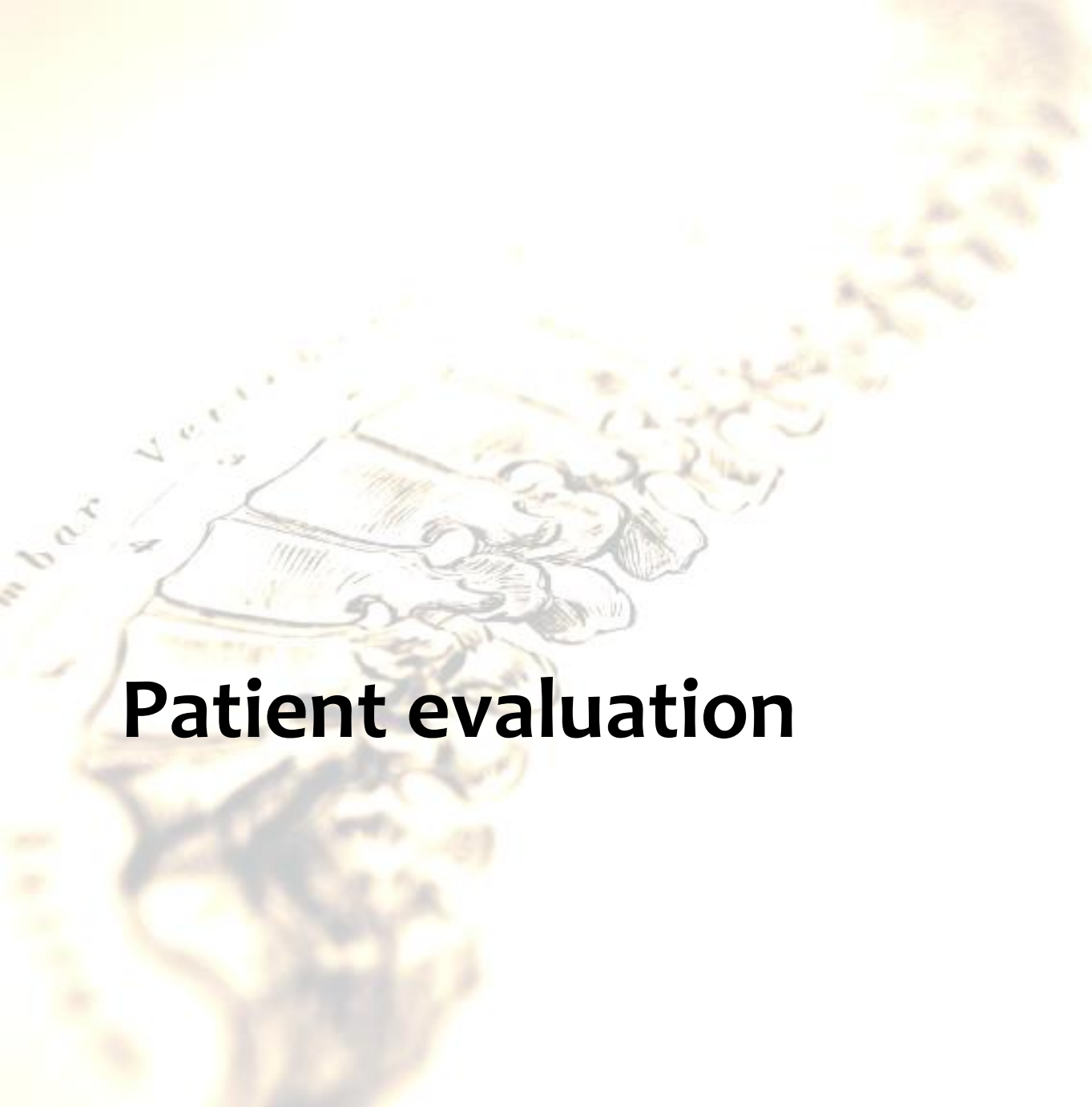
- d/t Impaired lung expansion, weak cough, retained bronchial secretion

3. Retained secretions/Mucus plugging

- d/t increased parasympathetic tone, weak cough

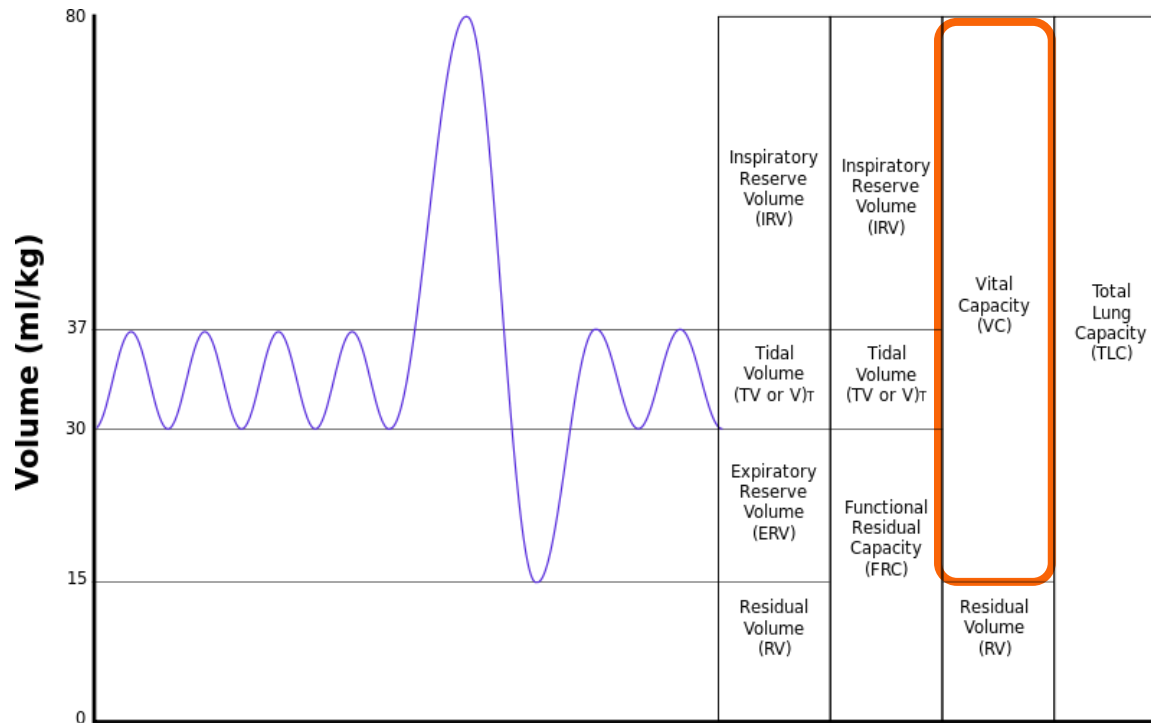
4. Bronchospasm

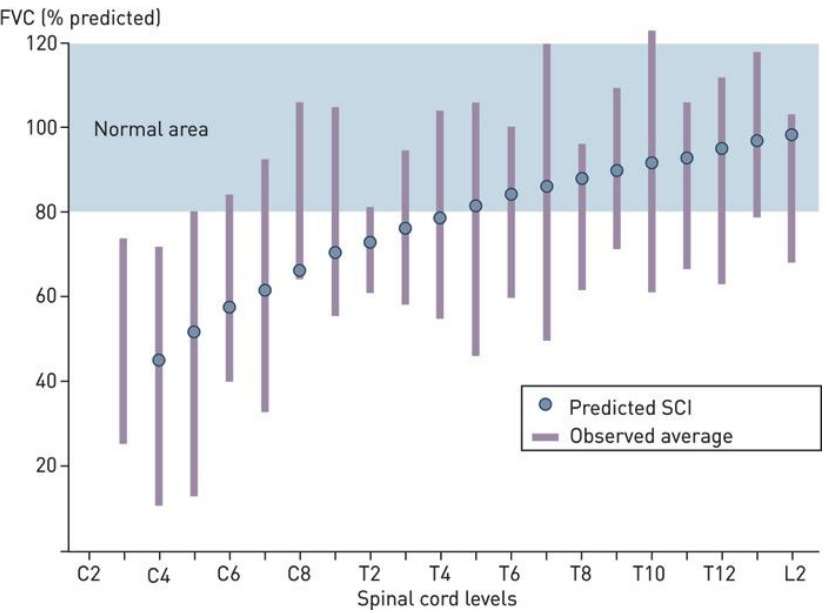
- d/t increased parasympathetic tone



Patient evaluation

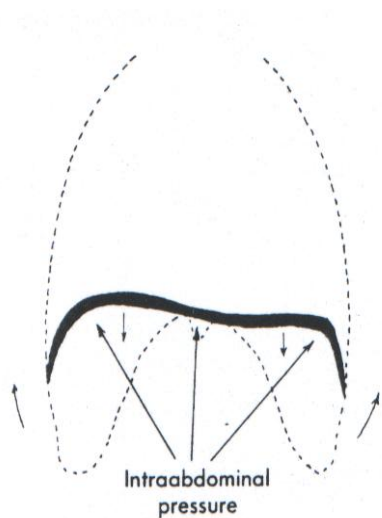
Vital capacity





1 week after SCI
 5 weeks
 5 months

	FVC	FEV1
1 week after SCI	30% of predicted value	27%
5 weeks	45%	42%
5 months	58%	59%



SCI patients

$VC_{\text{sitting}} < VC_{\text{supine}}$

Normal subjects
Myopathy, ALS

$VC_{\text{sitting}} > VC_{\text{supine}}$

MEP, MIP (maximal expiratory, inspiratory pressure)

Evaluation for respiratory muscle strength



PCF (peak cough flow)

Normal cough

- Precough inspiration to 85-90 % of TLC
- 360 - 720 L/min (6 – 12 L/sec)

Elimination particle from airway – at least **160L/min**



Gas analysis – ABGA, oximetry, capnography

- Stable patient without intrinsic pulmonary disease
– ABGA is unnecessary
- PaO₂
 - sensitive to atelectasis
 - SpO₂ – inaccurate if SaO₂ < 75%, hypothermia, low blood pressure
- PaCO₂
 - **ventilation abnormality**
 - end-tidal CO₂ – 3~5mmHg differ from PaCO₂



Nocturnal noninvasive blood gas monitoring

→ Any symptomatic Pt with decreased VC

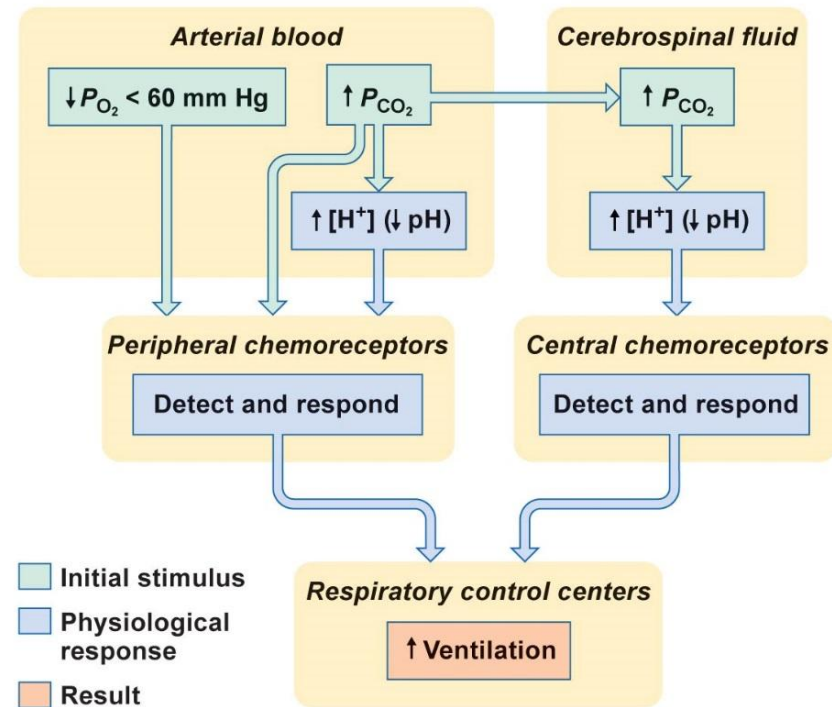
Multiple nocturnal $\text{SpO}_2 < 95\%$

→ ↑nocturnal PaCO_2 → Require Tx for nocturnal hypoventilation

- Acute respiratory acidosis (pH <7.36)

- Chronic respiratory acidosis (pH 7.36~7.45)

- renal compensation by renal excretion of carbonic acid (H_2CO_3) is increased and bicarbonate reabsorption



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chronic hypercapnia
acute hypoxemia

O_2 supply



Aggravation of hypercapnia



Management

Aggressive management of secretion and atelectasis are the cornerstones of early treatment.

Clearing of secretions

suctioning, assisted coughing, postural drainage, percussion/vibration, mechanical insufflator-exsufflator, high-frequency chest wall oscillation

Expansion of the lungs

high TV setting, incentive spirometry, ambu bagging (air stacking), mechanical insufflator-exsufflator

Clearing of secretions

Cough

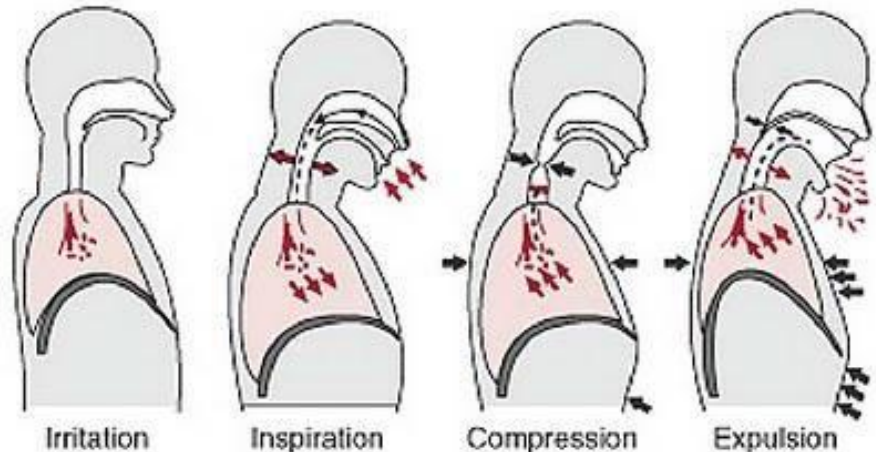
1. **Inspiratory phase**

- Inspiratory volume > 2.3 L

2. Compression phase

- glottis closure, high intrathoracic pressures (up to 300 cmH₂O)

3. **Expulsive phase**



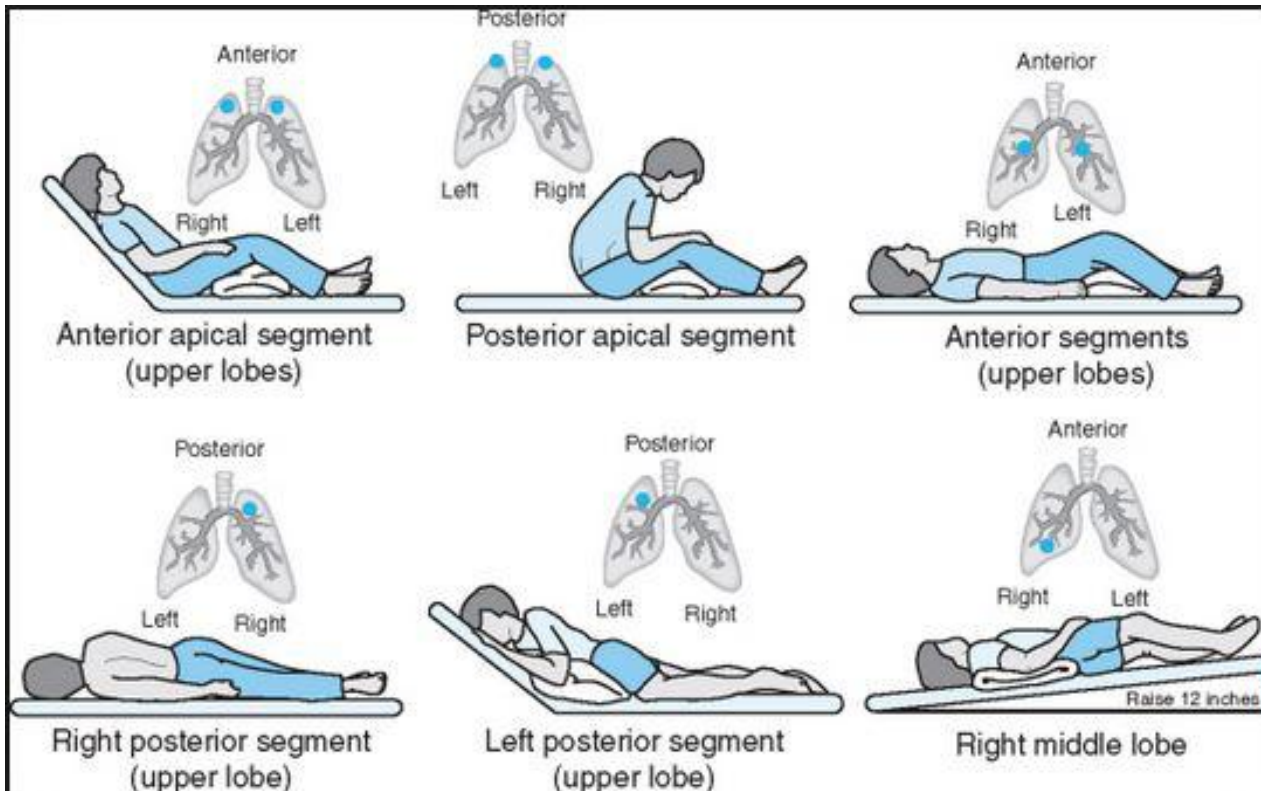
Assisted coughing

- **manual thrusts**
 - PCF <160 L/min

- **manual thrusts with maximal insu**
 - VC <1.5L
 - Assisted PCF <160 L/min



Postural drainage with Percussion/Vibration



Mechanical insufflator-exsufflator (MI-E)

20~50cmH₂O Insufflation/Exsufflation

4~5 cycles with short period of normal breathing or ventilator use to avoid hyperventilation

Contraindication

- bullous emphysema, pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum



Cough assist®



Cough & Suction®

High-frequency chest wall oscillation (Vest®)



Expansion of the lungs

Incentive spirometer



Air staking exercise

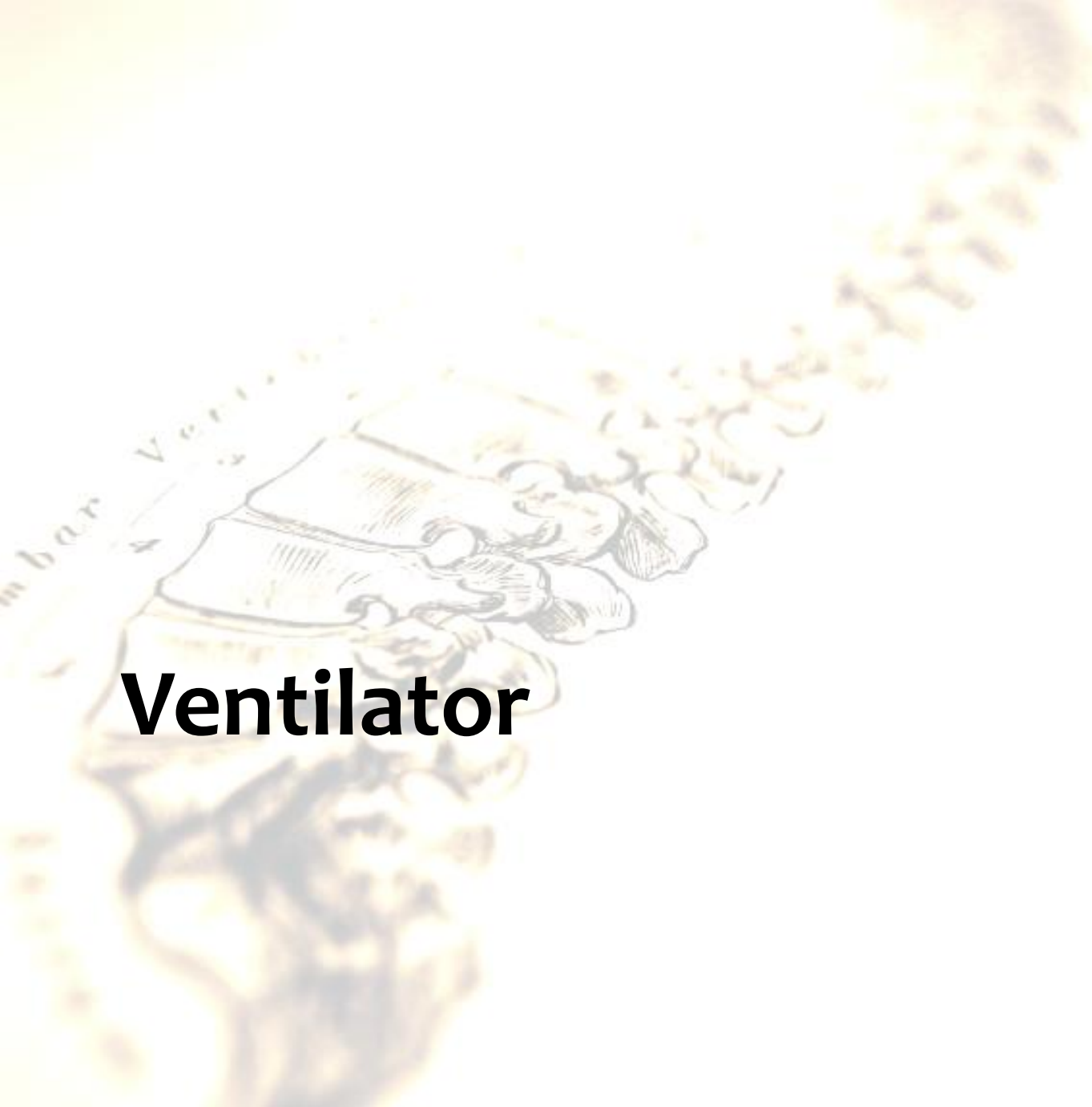
- decreased VC → decreased compliance, microatelectasis
- ROM exercise for lung is required
- ✓ High TV with ventilator
- ✓ Mechanical insufflator-exsufflator
- ✓ **Air stacking exercise by ambu bagging**





Glossopharyngeal breathing

- 6~9 gulps of 60~200 ml each
- [Glossopharyngeal breathing](#)



Ventilator

Home ventilator





**Thank you for your
attention!!**

- ISNCSCI

<http://www.isncscialgorithm.com>

- ASIA e-learning

<http://lms3.learnshare.com/home.aspx>