NON RESPIRATORY ASPECTS OF DELAYED WEANING AFTER CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

Prof. Sadeya Moussa  
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University.

Following cardiovascular surgery, most patients receive short-term ventilatory support and can simply be taken off the ventilators and extubated. The literature on ventilator weaning in this regard focus primarily on respiratory aspects. Assessments of the patient pulmonary mechanics, spontaneous breathing pattern, ventilatory demand and estimations of the efficiency of gas exchange are the main focus of most considerations for weaning. However, even if the measures of all these factors are acceptable, the patient may still be unweanable.

This lecture focuses on non-respiratory factors the clinician must consider whenever patients fail to wean on an initial attempt, or whenever weaning is undertaken after a period of prolonged ventilatory support. Six separate categories of non-respiratory factors: cardiac, acid-base, metabolic, pharmacologic, nutritional and psychological will be discussed.