Background: Noninvasive positive-pressure ventilation is a type of mechanical ventilation that does not require an artificial airway. The need for reintubation after extubation and discontinuation of mechanical ventilation is not uncommon and is associated with increased mortality after open heart surgery. Many of these patients have COPD, develop cardiogenic pulmonary edema, lung collapse or chest infection immediately after surgery. These selected patients benefit from the use of NIPPV following extubation.

In this review we present our experience in the past 2 years at Cairo University Hospitals.