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A new way to treat patients with respiratory failure: lying on the front while awake

Submission date 15/09/2021	**Recruitment status** Suspended	[X] Prospectively registered [X] Protocol [_] Statistical analysis plan [_] Results [_] Individual participant data [X] Record updated in last year
Registration date 17/09/2021	**Overall study status** Suspended	
Last Edited 21/10/2026	**Condition category** Respiratory	

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Intubation is when doctor puts a tube down your throat and into your windpipe to make it easier to get air into and out of your lungs. A machine called a ventilator pumps in air with extra oxygen. Hypoxemic respiratory failure means that you don't have enough oxygen in your blood. It is uncertain whether awake prone positioning (lying on the front) can prevent the need for intubation for invasive ventilation in critically ill patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure. Awake prone positioning could benefit these patients for various reasons, including a reduction in direct harm to lung tissue, and prevention of tracheal intubation-related complications.
The aim is to compare standard care with awake prone positioning versus standard care without awake prone positioning in patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure.

Who can participate?
Adult patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure.

What does the study involve?
Participants will be randomly allocated to be placed into the prone position or to receive treatment as usual. Patients will be followed up for 90 days.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Expected benefits are patient's symptomatology improvement which can hasten recovery, improve long and short term outcomes, reduce ICU and hospital length of stay.
Possible risk are those associated to the procedure, such as removal of catheter or devices already been in placed, worsening hypoxemia resulting in emergent orotracheal intubation.

Where is the study run from?
Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí (I3PT) (Spain)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
September 2019 to January 2025

Who is funding the study?
Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí (I3PT) (Spain)

Who is the main contact?
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)
NCT04142736

Study information

Scientific Title
PRone positioN in patients with spontanEous ventiLation and acute hypoxemic respIratory FailurE- The PRONELIFE Randomized Controlled Trial

Acronym
PRONELIFE

Study objectives
Awake prone position in patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure is associated with a decreased need for intubation

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 08/09/2021, Quiron Salud IRB (CEIm Grupo Hospitalario Quirónsalud-Catalunya. Pedro i Pons, 1 08195 Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain; +34 93 565 60 00 Ext 5935; ceic.idcsa.cat@idcsalud.es), ref: 2019/68-UCI-HUSC

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
International multicenter randomized controlled clinical trial

Study type(s)
Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Body position during acute hypoxemic respiratory failure

Interventions
PRONE POSITIONING
The study intervention will last for at least 48 hours and is divided into 4 blocks of 6 hours each: patients will be placed in the prone position for up to 2 hours, which can be prolonged if the patient feels comfortable, but could also be interrupted if a patient meets any of the discontinuation criteria which are any of the following:
developing a contraindication;
worsening of dyspnea (at any time, according to predefined criteria);
a further and sustained drop in SpO2 refractory to an increase in FiO2;
nausea or vomiting; and
increasing hemodynamic instability that is unrelated to sedatives (if given) and cannot be corrected by vasopressor or inotrope infusion

During the change in position, from supine to prone or from prone to supine, FiO2 will be increased by 25% above baseline. Each change in position is guided by two healthcare workers and an attending physician, but more healthcare workers could be needed. While the patient remains in a prone position, skin protection will be used to avoid pressure sores. Also, the application of cushions will enhance patient tolerance. Arms can be at the side, in a swimmer's position, and can be moved to increase comfort.
Food and comfort breaks are planned while patients are in supine. If the patient is receiving enteral or oral feeding, this is interrupted from 1 hour before prone until a patient is in a supine position.
The best–fitting and most–tolerated oxygen interface will be used in the prone position—this could be different from patient to patient, and different from what is used in the supine position, and could differ between patients but also institutions (i.e., depending on the availability of masks with or without a reservoir bag and with or without the Venturi system, HFNO, CPAP or NIV).

STANDARD OF CARE
In all patients, whether receiving prone positioning or not, the best standard of care is provided, according to the standard care by the local teams.

RANDOMIZATION AND BLINDING
Randomization will be performed using a dedicated password–protected website and will be

balanced per center. Central randomization with the use of a permutated–block randomization list (with block sizes of 4 to 8) will be used. Participants will be allocated to the prone positioning or standard care on a 1:1 ratio. By the nature of the intervention it will not be possible to blind clinicians to whether a participant has been randomized to awake prone position or standard care.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Composite of tracheal intubation and all–cause mortality in the first 14 days after enrolment measured using patient records

Key secondary outcome(s)
Measured using patient records unless otherwise noted:
1. Mortality at day 14
2. Intubation among survivors at day 24
3. Effects on oxygenation defined by the SpO2 at 4 hours
4. Days under the oxygen support device in 28 days
5. Dyspnea defined according modified Borg dyspnea scale at 4 hours
6. Time to tracheal intubation within 14 days
7. Rate of complications related to prone position at 4 hours:
7.1. Oxygen desaturations (SpO2 <90%)
7.2. Episodes of hemodynamic instability (BPsys < 90mmHg or BPsys drop > 10mmHg if BPsys < 90 before the maneuver)
7.3. Need of orotracheal intubation
7.4. Cardiac arrest
7.5. Displacement of the non-invasive respiratory support device
7.6. Removal of central venous line, if documented
7.7. Displacement of an arterial line, if documented
7.8. Displacement of a urinary catheter, if documented
8. Respiratory rate at 4 hours
9. Duration of invasive mechanical ventilation over 90 days
10. Ventilation-free days (VFD) at 28 days from ICU admission, defined as the number of days alive and free from IMV during the first 28 days from start of IMV
11. ICU-free days and hospital-free days at day 90
12. Mortality at day 28 and day 90

Completion date
01/01/2025

Reason abandoned (if study stopped)
Participant recruitment issue

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. >18 years
2. Acute respiratory failure from any cause
3. Admitted to a participating ICU
4. Written informed consent

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
18 Years

Upper age limit
120 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
0

Key exclusion criteria
1. Presence of any contraindication to prone position
2. The patient meets the criteria for intubation
3. Participating in other interventional studies with the same primary outcome
4. Receiving comfort care only
5. Pregnancy

Date of first enrolment
07/02/2022

Date of final enrolment
01/01/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Ecuador

France

Spain

Study participating centre
Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau.
Carrer de Sant Quintí, 89

Barcelona
Spain
08041

Study participating centre
Hospital Universitari Sagrat Cor.
Carrer de Viladomat, 288
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Study participating centre
Hospital Universitari General de Catalunya.
Carrer Pedro i Pons, 1
Sant Cugat del Vallès
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Study participating centre
Fundació Althaia.
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Study participating centre
Hospital Vicente Corral Moscoso.
Av. Los Arupos y Av. 12 de Abril
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Study participating centre
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Lille.
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Sponsor information

Organisation
Institute of Research and Innovation Parc Tauli

ROR
https://ror.org/038c0gc18

Funder(s)

Funder type
Research organisation

Funder Name
Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí (I3PT)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
All data generated or analysed during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication

IPD sharing plan summary
Other

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		10/01/2022	21/10/2026	Yes	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes