



What strategies can I use to wean my intubated patients?

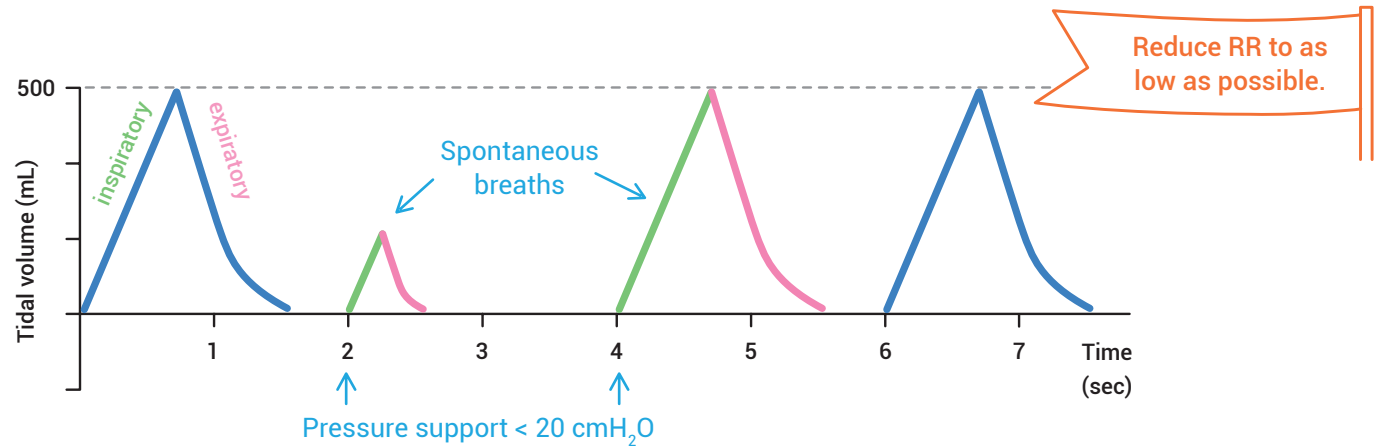
# Weaning using the SIMV strategy

You can use the SIMV strategy to wean your patient off the ventilator.

1. Check patient meets screening criteria.
2. Switch patient from AC → SIMV (with same settings).
3. Reduce RR—gradually.  
Reducing the RR allows for more opportunity for spontaneous breathing.
4. Observe patient's spontaneous ability.
5. Add pressure support as needed.  
Added pressure support can assist low volume spontaneous breaths; but be careful not to add more than 20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O support → this probably means patient isn't ready.

## SIMV strategy

SBT  
(CPAP or T-piece)



**PRO**  
Patient assessment

You are often more successful with something you are familiar with.

**CON**  
Poor outcomes

**Reference:**  
Hess Dean, RRT, PhD, FCCP. Ventilator modes used in weaning. *Chest* 2001. **120**: 474S-476S.