Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
Computational evaluation of rebreathing and effective dead space on a helmet-like interface during the COVID-19 pandemic

A. Gil a, M. Martínez b, P. Quintero a,⇑, A. Medina c

a CMT-Motores Térmicos, Universitat Politècnica de Valpència, Camino de Vera, s/n, Valencia 46022, Spain
b Hospital General Universitari de Castelló, Avinguda de Benicàssim, 128, 12004 Castellón de la Plana, Castellón, Spain
c Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, Avenida de Roma, s/n, 33011 Oviedo, Asturias, Spain

Abstract

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a potentially severe acute respiratory infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The potential for transmission of this disease has led to an important scarcity of health-care resources. Consequently, alternative solutions have been explored by many physicians and researchers. Non-invasive Ventilation has been revealed as one alternative for patients with associated acute respiratory distress syndrome. This technique is being used in combination with helmet-like interfaces because of their versatility and affordability. However, these interfaces could experience important problems of CO₂ rebreathing, especially under low flow rate conditions. This work proposes a Computational Fluid Dynamics method to accurately characterize the fluid flow in a pre-design environment of helmet-like interfaces. Parameters as effective dead space, rebreathing, pressure, or temperature field distribution are quantified and analysed in detail in order to study the performance and feasibility of such devices to relieve the effects of respiratory infections.

1. Introduction

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a potentially severe acute respiratory infection caused by coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Gorbalenya et al., 2020). COVID-19 infection requires intensive care in, approximately, 5% of proven infections (Wu & McGoogan, 2020). An important number of patients in intensive care, develop criteria of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) (Wang et al., 2020), requiring respiratory support.

As the pandemic has advanced, public health systems have experienced an overload of their resources, leading to an important lack of ventilators for invasive ventilation (Wu & McGoogan, 2020). Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) is effective in terms of alveolar recruitment in ARDS (Lazzeri et al., 2020). However, there exists no consensus about its use with COVID-19 patients, mainly due to the possible virus spread among Intensive Care Unit (ICU) staff via aerosol generation (Murthy et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020). Nevertheless, the use of non-vented interfaces, with a virus filter in the exhalation port, could be an effective way of treating contagious patients, ensuring staff safety (Vaughan et al., 2020). Moreover, NIV avoids intubation for a wide number of critical patients (Nava et al., 2006; Nava & Hill, 2009).

Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) allows the insufflation of air at over-atmospheric pressure in the interface, decreasing respiratory work. During CPAP, air is introduced through an inhalation port in the interface. A correct choice of the interface is crucial for the successful treatment of the patient. For ARDS patients due to COVID-19, the use of the helmet interface is becoming especially relevant, as deduced from the work of Radovanovic et al., 2020, who concluded a better tolerability for the helmet and reduced room contamination compared with oronasal masks. Moreover, choice of an adequate interface for each patient should be carried out considering fluid dynamic features of each device. Only a few numbers of studies have addressed the problem in this way. Therefore, some questions about the use of NIV interfaces remain unanswered. One such question is CO₂ rebreathing, which takes place when air scavenge process is not correctly performed (Yañez et al., 2008). Schettino et al., 2003 addressed this problem using experimental measurements in mannequins. Their work concluded that gas exchange in the interior of the interface is determined by the position of inhalation and exhalation ports. However, they did not perform an exhaustive fluid dynamic analysis and, therefore, they could not propose an optimization strategy for NIV interfaces.
In this sense, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) could play a major role for evaluating performance of NIV interfaces. A wide number of CFD applications have been carried out in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they are mostly related to the study of droplet dispersion from coughs or speaking, as it could be inferred from the works of Dbouk & Drikakis, 2020 or Yan et al., 2020. CFD has only marginally been applied to NIV. Fodil et al., 2011 performed a computational study for analysing the fluid flow in different interfaces. However, they did not perform the evaluation of the mass flow through the inhalation circuit and, therefore, they were not able to compute the model in conditions of CPAP ventilation.

Additionally, some researchers showed how CFD is a reliable tool for modelling phenomena related with the respiratory system. Nof et al., 2020 proposed a computational model for reconstructing the fluid flow in an upper airway model of an intubated neonate undergoing mechanical ventilation, spanning conventional to high-frequency ventilation modes. Also, Ahookhosh et al., 2020 computed the fluid flow inside the tracheobronchial airways in order to study aerosol deposition.

Current work proposes a computational method for the study of a helmet interface, as it has been shown to be one of the most useful during the COVID-19 pandemic (Radovanovic et al., 2020). The main aim of this paper is characterizing the fluid dynamic phenomena in the interface, as well as obtaining the minimum required ventilation flow rate for respiratory support, contributing to an efficient use of medical resources. The method could be extrapolated for the evaluation of any kind of NIV interface. A mesh independent grid setup and representative boundary conditions will be presented.

2. Methodology

2.1. Geometry, computational domain and mesh

During this study, a given design of a helmet-like interface was evaluated in terms of its fluid dynamic features. The geometry of the interface was chosen to represent a prototype which is being tested on healthy volunteers. A generic patient’s head with a volume of $V_{\text{head}} = 3.62 \text{ L}$ was placed in the interior of the interface. The mouth was modeled by a simplified duct connecting lungs (represented by imposing the flow-rate) and the fluid domain, consisting on a cylindrical duct of diameter $D_{\text{duct}} = 20 \text{ mm}$, being in the order of the upper airways diameter for an average adult (Ajmani, 1990; Zrunek et al., 1988). The length of the duct was $L_{\text{duct}} = 100 \text{ mm}$, which is enough to ensure that fully developed flow was obtained at this region both during inhalation and exhalation. Mouth was modeled by a maximum ellipsoidal section whose axes were taken in order to represent an adult’s open mouth, being $a_{\text{mouth}} = 25 \text{ mm}$ and $b_{\text{mouth}} = 50 \text{ mm}$. The length of this region was $25 \text{ mm}$, which ensures that flow is not detached in this zone under the studied working conditions.

As it can be observed at Fig. 1, the helmet consists of a cylindrical geometry of diameter $D_{\text{helmet}} = 300 \text{ mm}$ and height $L_{\text{helmet}} = 350 \text{ mm}$, leading to an inner volume of $V_{\text{helmet}} = 24.74 \text{ L}$. Fresh air enters into the domain through the inhalation port, with diameter $D_{\text{in}} = 30 \text{ mm}$ and leaves through the exhalation port, with diameter $D_{\text{out}} = 30 \text{ mm}$. They are both located at 40 mm from the base. In order to ensure that flow is not unphysically affected by boundary conditions, the length of the ports was 10 times its diameter.

The geometry was discretized using a polyhedral mesh whose maximum size was set to be $\Delta x = 11 \text{ mm}$. Polyhedral mesh was chosen as it normally ensures grid independence with fewer elements than tetrahedral meshes (Spiegel et al., 2011). A surface size of $\Delta x = 6 \text{ mm}$ was used to represent domain’s walls, while the ports and the simplified mouth were refined with a size of $\Delta x = 1 \text{ mm}$. With this configuration, a mesh with approximately $N = 1 \times 10^6$ elements was generated, which is shown at Fig. 1. Time was discretized using a second order approach, with a time step of $\Delta t = 0.0100 \text{ s}$. A grid independence study was performed with meshes up to $N = 6 \times 10^6$ and time steps of $\Delta t = 0.0010 \text{ s}$, without finding significant discrepancies between computed results (EDS and rebreathing).

2.2. Boundary conditions

Constant volume flow $Q_{\text{in}}$ at temperature $T_{\text{in}} = 27 \text{ °C}$ is imposed at the inhalation port, using a low turbulence intensity of 0.01% and turbulent length scale of 2 mm. Inlet volume flow was varied between $Q_{\text{in}} = 10 \text{ L/min}$ and $Q_{\text{in}} = 90 \text{ L/min}$. The inflow fluid is supposed to be fresh air, whose concentration is given by a scalar value, $\phi_{\text{fresh}}$, similarly to Fodil et al., 2011 or Trescher & Trescher, 2008.

Patient is supposed to inhale the gas in the interface, exhaling rebreathed air, rich in CO$_2$, at temperature $T_p = 39 \text{ °C}$, simulating febrile condition. Walls of the helmet and patient’s skin were modeled as adiabatic boundary conditions. Given the nature and characteristics of the flow inside the helmet, this hypothesis does not significantly affect main features of the analysis. Concentration of exhaled gas is given by the scalar variable $\phi_{\text{exhaled}}$. Thermodynamic properties of both inlet and exhaled gas are assumed to be the same. Breathing of the patient was be modeled by imposing the volume flow through the simplified upper airways. Two characteristic breathing laws will be supposed, with tidal volumes of $V_t = 500 \text{ mL}$ and $V_t = 250 \text{ mL}$. Respiratory frequency was set to $f_{\text{respiratory}} = 12 \text{ breaths/min}$. The duration of the exhalation and inhalation phases was $T_{\text{ex}} = 3.33 \text{ s}$ and $T_{\text{ins}} = 1.67 \text{ s}$, respectively. Tidal volumes were selected in order to represent a wide adult population (Lher et al., 2016, Hallett & Ashurst, 2018), while the respiratory frequency was taken for an average adult (Barret et al., 2019). The breathing law is modeled using sinusoidal functions and is shown at Fig. 2. Peak inhalation flow rate can be estimated as stated by Equation (1).

$$Q_{\text{peak}} = \frac{\pi f_{\text{respiratory}} V_t}{2 f_{\text{respiratory}}}$$

Where $f_{\text{respiratory}} = \frac{T_{\text{ins}}}{T_{\text{ex}}}$ is the ratio of the active inhalation over the total time of the respiratory cycle, which is 0.33 for the current case.

Gas leaves the domain through the exhalation port. It will be supposed that there exists a resistance circuit which allows to set pressure at this boundary to be $P_{\text{ambient}} = 10 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$. This could be achieved using a PEEP valve. The atmosphere temperature is $T_{\text{atm}} = 20 \text{ °C}$. Note that, due to the low velocities of the flow, air can be considered to be incompressible (Anderson Jr, 2010). Therefore, following results can be applied for different values of the outlet pressure. Neck was supposed to be perfectly sealed, so no leaks were considered, representing the system under ideal conditions.

The helmet is supposed to be initially filled with fresh air. This initial condition did not affect the final gas distribution when a cyclic state was obtained.

2.3. CFD simulation

Simulations were performed by means of the Finite Volume Method, using the commercial software Simcenter STAR-CCM+ for the resolution of the Unsteady Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes (URANS) equations (Pope, 2012). $k - \omega$ with shear stress
transport turbulence model (Menter, 1993) is chosen. This model varies from the \( k-\omega \) turbulence model proposed by Wilcox, 1988 to the \( k-\varepsilon \) model away from them, solving the main inconve-
siences of both models. This was successfully used for a similar case by Fodil et al., 2011. Other turbulence models were used in previous simulations, resulting on differences below 5% on the investigat-
ed variables. Spatial derivatives were discretized using a second order upwind approach, while time discretization was second order.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Exhaled gas distribution

There are two main variables which establish mixture of fresh and exhaled air inside the interface: the incoming fresh flow through inhalation port and the unsteady patient’s breathing flow rate. Therefore, both rebreathed flow rate and the mass of exhaled gases in the interface interior are not constant during the breathing cycle. After a few respiration cycles are simulated, a cyclic state is reached. For the current simulations, this circumstance was achieved after 8–25 breathing cycles, depending on the incoming flow rate. Calculations were performed on a multiuser cluster, using 15 Intel Xeon Gold 6154 CPUs, and took approximately 3.25 h per breathing cycle. Note how the initial conditions should not affect the final results but could influence the computational cost for reaching a cyclic state, as it could be checked at the anima-
tions attached in the Electronic Supplementary Materials (ESM).

In this study, the composition of the mixture during a cycle was analyzed for different values of the incoming flow rate. This could be quantified in terms of mass fraction of fresh air

\[
MF_{\text{fresh}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{fresh}}}{\rho_{\text{fresh}} + \rho_{\text{exhaled}}}
\]

and mass fraction of exhaled air

\[
MF_{\text{exhaled}} = \frac{\rho_{\text{exhaled}}}{\rho_{\text{fresh}} + \rho_{\text{exhaled}}}
\]

Fig. 3 represents distribution of \( MF_{\text{exhaled}} \) in the interface at the end of inhalation time for different flow rates at a given value of tidal volume, as well as the flow patterns at this instant, represen-
ted by white lines. \( MF_{\text{exhaled}} \) over 10% is represented by yellow while \( MF_{\text{exhaled}} \) of 0% is represented by blue. A predominant vortex at the right of the patient’s head can be observed for any value of the incoming flow rate. Transient phenomena are better illustrated by observing animations available in the ESM. Also, is observed from Fig. 3, that exhaled gas tends to accumulate at the right of
the patient’s head, far from the exhausting port. Observe that setting patient’s head between exhalation and inhalation ports, scav-enge of exhaled gases should be benefited.

3.2. Effective dead space (EDS) and rebreathing

In accordance with Fletcher et al., 1981, physiological dead space is defined as “the extent to which expired gas contains alveolar gas”. In the case of NIV we will refer to EDS which, in accordance with Fodil et al., 2011, is defined as the volume of exhaled gas inside the helmet. This parameter can be established by means of Equation (2). Additionally, it is of interest computing the amount of rebreathed gas through mouth during inhalation. These are shown in percentage at Fig. 4. Additionally, Fig. 4 shows these results using a non-dimensional volume flow as the independent variable, defined as 

$$V_{dead} = \iiint \phi_{exhaled} dV$$

(2)

The results of the simulations for $V_I = 500$ mL show how, for any value above 25 L/min, EDS in the interior of the helmet was below 13.3% (3.29L). EDS reaches values lower than 7.4% (2.05L) for inlet flow rates above 55 L/min. For higher values of the parameter, EDS becomes approximately constant. Similar results can be observed from the non-dimensional representation given in Fig. 4 which, additionally, allows establishing that EDS percentage should be decreased with the decrease of patient’s tidal volume. EDS of the helmet interface is much lower than its actual volume. This is in agreement with previous studies, which allows to establish reliability of current calculations. Fodil et al., 2011 obtained comparable results for a similar interface of smaller volume. From their results, it can also be suggested that, in interfaces of lower volume, EDS can be up to 15%. Therefore, helmet interface seems to be more effective in terms of this parameter. EDS varies slightly during a breathing cycle (Fig. 5), although its temporal variation is bounded.

In terms of effectiveness, the most important variable is the quantity of gas which is rebreathed by the patient. Fig. 6 represents the flow rate of rebreathed air during a whole breathing cycle.

Although there exists a relationship between EDS and rebreathed gases, they are not interchangeable. Observation of the flow field and comparison with literature data allows one to infer that the higher volume should be beneficial in terms of rebreathing. In an interface of low volume, the amount of not scavenged gas is significantly lower in absolute values. However, this is not the case when the percentage EDS is evaluated. In fact, in these interfaces, exhaled gases remain close to patient’s mouth, being

---

**Fig. 3.** Distribution of exhaled gas at the end of the inhalation time by means of its percentage concentration at different fresh inflow air rates for a tidal volume $V_I = 500$ mL.
Fig. 4. Evaluation of interface performance in terms of rebreathed gas and dead space in the interior of the helmet interface for different values of the incoming fresh flow rate in dimensional form (a and c) and non-dimensionalized (b and d).

(A) Interface rebreathing as a function of inlet flow rate
(B) Interface rebreathing as a function of non-dimensional inlet flow rate
(C) Interface dead space as a function of inlet flow rate
(D) Interface dead space as a function of non-dimensional inlet flow rate

Fig. 5. Computation of dead space in the interior of the interface during a breathing cycle.

(a) Dead space during a breathing cycle for $V_i = 500 \text{ mL}$
(b) Dead space during a breathing cycle for $V_i = 250 \text{ mL}$
easily rebreathed. Therefore, for a low volume interface, even for high values of flow rate, a remarkable amount of rebreathing could be expected. On the other hand, for high flow rates, the evaluation of rebreathed gas in the helmet interface is below 5%. These results can be intuitively explained observing the distribution of exhaled air in Fig. 3. At the end of the exhalation process, the exhaled gas has mixed with the remaining gas in the helmet. Therefore, the global mass concentration of exhaled air is relatively low inside the interface. This is in agreement with the previous findings of Taccone et al., 2004.

Fig. 6. Computation of the rebreathed flow rate through patient’s mouth during a whole breathing cycle.

Fig. 7. Distribution of temperature at the end of the inhalation time as a function of the incoming fresh flow rate for a tidal volume $V_t = 500 \text{ mL}$. 

(a) $Q = 10 \text{ L/min}$  
(b) $Q = 20 \text{ L/min}$  
(c) $Q = 30 \text{ L/min}$  
(d) $Q = 40 \text{ L/min}$  
(e) $Q = 50 \text{ L/min}$  
(f) $Q = 60 \text{ L/min}$  
(g) Colormap
EDS and rebreathed air tend to decrease when increasing flow rate. On the other hand, the lower tidal volume leads to lower EDS and rebreathed gases. This can be explained as follows: a patient with low tidal volume exhales a lower amount of gases and, therefore, they can be easily scavenged from the helmet. Therefore, it could be deduced that, in terms of fluid dynamic behavior, helmet interface should be the optimum one for patients with low tidal volume, such as pediatric patients, as it was suggested by Milési et al., 2010.

3.3. Temperature distribution

Temperature inside the interface is uniform, with variability below 1 °C (Fig. 7). For incoming flow rates below 20 L/min, a zone of low temperature is found near the exhalation port. This can be attributed to the fact that, when flow rates are below this value, patient is not capable to obtain his peak inhalation flow rate from the incoming flow or the reservoirs in the helmet and, therefore, air begins to be reversed from the atmosphere.

3.4. Pressure distribution

Pressure was found to be uniform in the interface, as can be observed at Fig. 8, where time evolution of static pressure at the patient’s mouth is qualitatively shown, with arbitrary units. Pressure is fixed mainly by the resistive components located at the exhalation port. These results are in fair agreement with those suggested by Chiumello et al., 2003.

This study allows to deduce that for flow rates below 20 L/min, support pressure cannot be achieved, as there is not enough fluid for satisfying patient’s peak inhalation demands. Under these circumstances, pressure experiences an abrupt drop. Current results suggest that the helmet interface can be used even for an incoming flow rate as low as 20 L/min, assuming that rebreathing level is acceptable. Lower values of flow rate would not be capable of satisfying the peak flow demand. However, it has been found how these values are significantly lower than those which are traditionally expected, as can be inferred from Bello et al., 2013, who recommends flows higher than 45 L/min. The computational results allow providing an accurate explanation for this phenomenon: the air inside the interface acts as a reservoir. Therefore, when patient’s peak inhalation flow rate is higher than the supplied flow rate, he is able of breathing this accumulated air. This would not be the case if using low volume interfaces, where volume is not enough for satisfying the respiratory demand, as can be concluded from the works of Patroniti et al., 2003.

3.5. Minimum required flow rate into the interface

It is possible to propose a tool for estimating the minimum required incoming flow rate for the current helmet interface, \( Q_{\text{min}} \), as stated by Equation (3). This is a correction of Equation...
\[ Q_{\text{min}} = \frac{0.70}{2} \frac{f_{\text{respiratory}}}{f_{\text{respiratory}}} V_t = 0.70 Q_{\text{peak}} \tag{3} \]

3.6. Limitations

During the current study, non-intentional leaks were not considered. Under some circumstances, these leaks could lead to a malfunctioning of the interface for NIV, as suggested by Louis et al., 2010. Nevertheless, the current study could be directly applied when leaking flow rate is much lower than inlet flow rate. Future studies are proposed to establish the actual effect of leaks around the neck. Additionally, it was assumed that the wall of the interface is infinitely rigid. In fact, once the helmet interface is pressurized, its geometry can be supposed to be unchanged with time and pressure, as can be observed when using the device. Therefore, it could be interesting to consider the flexibility of the wall in future works, it is expected to be of second order.

No heat transfer between the fluid and walls was modeled. Future research should be dedicated to the study fluid dynamics phenomena in NIV. Although the method was applied for a helmet interface, it could be used for exploring suitability of new designs or other kind of interfaces.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2021.110302.

References

Ahookhosh, K., Saidi, M., Aminifar, H., Mohammadpourfarmand, M., Hamishehkar, H., Vayeghan, S., 2020. Dry powder inhaler aerosol deposition in a model of tracheobronchial airways: Validating CFD predictions with in vitro data. Int. J. Pharm. 587, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpharm.2020.119599. 119599.

Ajmani, M.L., 1990. A metrical study of the laryngeal skeleton in adult Nigerians. J. Anat. 171, 187–191 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2081705.

Anderson Jr, J. D. (2010). Fundamental of Aerodynamics (M.-H. Education (ed.)), Barrett, K., Barman, S. M., Brooks, J. K., Yuan, J. X. J., 2019. Ganong’s review of medical physiology.

Bello, G., De Fiascale, G., Antonelli, M., 2013. Noninvasive ventilation. Curr. Opinion Crit. Care 19 (1), 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1097/MCC.0b013e32823c4a45.

Chiumello, D., Pelosi, P., Carlesso, E., Severgnini, P., Aspini, M., Gamberoni, C., Antonelli, M., Conti, G., Chiaranda, M., Gattinoni, L., 2003. Noninvasive positive pressure ventilation delivered by helmet vs. standard face mask Intensive Care Med. 29 (10), 1671–1679. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-003-1825-9.

Dbouk, T., Drikakis, D., 2020. On coughing and airborne droplet transmission to humans. Phys. Fluids 32 (5). https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0019601 053310.

Fletcher, R., Jonson, B., Cumming, G., Brew, J., 1981. The concept of deadspace with special reference to the single breath test for carbon dioxide. Br. J. Anaesth. 53 (1), 77–88. https://doi.org/10.1093/bja/53.1.77.

Fodi, R., Lellicoehe, F., Mancelbo, J., Shirela-Apino, G., Isabey, D., Broachard, L., Louis, B., 2011. Comparison of patient-ventilator interfaces based on their computerized effective dead space. Intensive Care Med. 37 (2), 257–262. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-010-2066-3.

Gorbaleya, A. E. Baker, C. S., Baric, R. S., de Groot, J. J., Drosten, C., Gulyaeva, A. A., Haagmans, B. L., Lauber, C., Leontovich, A. M., Neuman, B. W., Penzar, D., Perlin, S., Poon, L. L. M., Samborskiy, D. V., Sidorov, I. A., Sola, I., & Ziebuhr, J., 2020. The species Severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus: classifying 2019-ncov and naming it SARS-CoV-2. In Nature Microbiology (Vol. 5, Issue 4, pp. 536–544). Nature Research. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41556-020-0695-z.

Hallett, S., Ashurst, J. V., 2018. Physiology, Tidal Volume. In StatPearls Publishing. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29454108.

L'her, E., Martin-Babau, J., Lellicoehe, F., 2016. Accuracy of height estimation and tidal volume setting using anthropometric formulas in an ICU Caucasian population. Ann. Intensive Care, 6, 55. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13613-016-0154-4.

Lazzeri, M., Lanza, A., Bellini, R., Bellofio, A., Cechetto, S., Colombo, A., D’Abrrosca, F., Del Monaco, C., Gaudiello, G., Paneroni, M., Privitera, E., Retucci, M., Rossi, V., Santambrogio, M., Sommariva, M., Frigerio, F., 2020. Respiratory physiotherapy in patients with COVID-19 infection in acute setting: A Position Paper of the Italian Association of Respiratory Physiotherapists (ARR). In Monaldi Archives for Chest Disease (Vol. 90, Issue 1, pp. 163–168). PAGEPress Publications. https://doi.org/10.4081/monaldi.2020.1285.

Latorre, L., Louros, K., Isabey, D., Fauroux, B., Lefebre, F., 2010. Effect of manufacturer-inserted mask leaks on ventilator performance. Eur. Respir. J. 35 (3), 627–636. https://doi.org/10.1183/09031936.00188708.

Menter, F. R., 1993. Zonal two equation k-ε turbulence models for aerodynamic flows. AIAA 23rd Fluid Dynamics, Plasmadynamics, and Lasers Conference, 1993.

Milési, C., Ferrague, F., Jaberi, S., Rideau, A., Combles, B., Matecki, S., Bourlet, J., Picaud, J.C., Cambone, G., 2010. Continuous positive airway pressure ventilation with helmet in infants under 1 year. Intensive Care Med. 36 (9), 1592–1596. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-010-1940-3.

Murthy, S., Comersall, C. D., Fowler, R. A., 2020. Care for Critically Ill Patients with COVID-19. In JAMA - Journal of the American Medical Association (Vol. 323, 110302).
Issue 15, pp. 1499–1500). American Medical Association. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.3633.
Nava, S., Hill, N., 2009. Non-invasive ventilation in acute respiratory failure. In The Lancet (Vol. 374, Issue 9635, pp. 250–259). Elsevier. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60496-7.
Nava, S., Navalesi, P., Conti, G. (2006). Time of non-invasive ventilation. In Intensive Care Medicine (Vol. 32, Issue 3, pp. 361–370). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-005-0050-0.
Nof, E., Heller-Algazi, M., Coletti, F., Waisman, D., Sznitman, J., 2020. Ventilation-induced jet suggests biotrauma in reconstructed airways of the intubated neonate. J. R. Soc. Interface 17 (162), 20190516. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2019.0516.
Patroniti, N., Foti, G., Manfio, A., Coppo, A., Bellani, G., Pesenti, A., 2003. Head helmet versus face mask for non-invasive continuous positive airway pressure: A physiological study. Intensive Care Med. 29 (10), 1680–1687. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-003-1931-8.
Pope, S. B., 2012. Turbulent flows (Cambridge (ed.)).
Radovanovic, D., Rizzi, M., Pini, S., Saad, M., Chiurmele, D.A., Santus, P., 2020. Helmet CPAP to Treat Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure in Patients with COVID-19: A Management Strategy Proposal. J. Clin. Med. 9 (4), 1191. https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm9041191.
Schettino, G.P.P., Chatmongkolchart, S., Hess, D.R., Kacmarek, R.M., 2003. Position of exhalation port and mask design affect CO2 rebreathing during noninvasive positive pressure ventilation*. Crit. Care Med. 31 (8), 2178–2182. https://doi.org/10.1097/01.CCM.0000134-003-1931-8.
Spiegel, M., Redel, T., Zhang, J.J., Struffert, T., Hornegger, J., Grossman, R.G., Doerfler, A., Karmonik, C., 2011. Tetrahedral vs. polyhedral mesh size evaluation on flow velocity and wall shear stress for cerebral hemodynamic simulation. Comput. Methods Biomech. Biomed. Eng. 14 (1), 9–22. https://doi.org/10.1080/10255842.2010.518555.
Taccone, P., Hess, D., Caironi, P., Bigatello, L.M., 2004. Continuous positive airway pressure delivered with a “helmet”: Effects on carbon dioxide rebreathing*. Crit. Care Med. 32 (10), 2090–2096. https://doi.org/10.1097/01.CCM.0000142577.63316.C0.
Treicher, D., Treicher, D., 2008. Development of an Efficient 3-D CFD Software to Simulate and Visualize the Scavenging of a Two-Stroke Engine. Arch Comput Methods Eng 15, 67–111. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11831-007-9014-6.
Vaughan, T.J., Kirrane, F., Moerman, K.M., Cahill, T., O'Regan, A., O'Reeke, D.T., 2020. A Novel Dual Non-Invasive Ventilator Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Non-Aerosolization Circuit for Emergency Use in the COVID-19 Pandemic. J. Open Hardware 4 (1). https://doi.org/10.5334/joh.23.
Wang, D., Hu, B., Hu, C., Zhu, F., Liu, X., Zhang, J., Wang, B., Xiang, H., Cheng, Z., Xiong, Y., Zhao, Y., Li, Y., Wang, X., Peng, Z., 2020. Clinical Characteristics of 138 Hospitalized Patients with 2019 Novel Coronavirus-Infected Pneumonia in Wuhan, China. JAMA – J. Am. Med. Assoc. 323 (11), 1061–1069. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.1585.
Wilcox, D.C., 1988. Multiscale model for turbulent flows. AIAA J. 26 (11), 1311–1320. https://doi.org/10.2514/3.10042.
Wu, Z., McGoogan, J. M., 2020. Characteristics of and Important Lessons from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak in China: Summary of a Report of 72314 Cases from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In JAMA - Journal of the American Medical Association (Vol. 323, Issue 13, pp. 1239–1242). American Medical Association. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2020.2648.
Yan, Y., Li, X., Yang, L., Yan, P., Tu, J., 2020. Evaluation of cough-jet effects on the transport characteristics of respiratory-induced contaminants in airline passengers’ local environments. Build. Environ. 183. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2020.107206.
Yañez, L.J., Yunge, M., Emillfork, M., Lapadula, M., Alcántara, A., Fernández, C., Lozano, J., Contreras, M., Conto, L., Arevalo, C., Gayan, A., Hernández, F., Pedraza, M., Feddersen, M., Bejares, M., Morales, M., Mallia, F., Glasinovic, M., Cavada, G., 2008. A prospective, randomized, controlled trial of noninvasive ventilation in pediatric acute respiratory failure*. Pediatric Crit. Care Med. 9 (5), 484–489. https://doi.org/10.1097/01.PCC.0000318184089.
Yang, X., Yu, Y., Xu, J., Hua, X., Jia, J., Liu, H., Wu, Y., Zheng, L., Yu, Z., Fang, M., Yu, T., Wang, Y., Pan, S., Zou, X., Yuan, S., Shang, Y., 2020. Clinical course and outcomes of critically ill patients with SARS-CoV-2 pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a single-centered, retrospective, observational study. Lancet Respiratory Med. 8 (5), 475–481. https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(20)30079-5.
Zrunek, M., Happak, W., Herrmann, M., Streiner, W., 1988. Comparative anatomy of human and sheep laryngeal skeleton. Acta Otolaryngol. 105 (1-2), 155–162. https://doi.org/10.3109/00016488809119460.