

Ralf Kuhlen | Rui Moreno
Marco Ranieri | Andrew Rhodes
(Eds.)



Controversies in Intensive Care Medicine



Medizinisch Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft

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Preface

Last year, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) celebrated its 25th anniversary in combination with its 20th annual congress. On that occasion we published a book entitled “25 Years of Progress and Innovation in Intensive Care Medicine”, which was given to all conference attendees and also every member of the society as an anniversary present. The feedback from our members and also from other readers of the book was extremely positive, with many requests asking us to repeat the exercise in 2008 and future years. This year’s annual congress is entitled “Controversies in Intensive Care Medicine” and will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September. The editors, the executive committee of the society, the publisher and all the people involved with last year’s project were easily convinced to accept the challenge of producing another book that will again accompany the annual conference and will be distributed to society members. As in the past year, the title of the book reflects the theme of the congress, focusing on areas of controversy within our specialty.

How should controversial issues in intensive care be presented? The first idea was to identify the topic of the controversy and then have pro and con chapters reflecting the two respective standpoints. Although this approach could have been very interesting and entertaining, we thought that highlighting the topic of the controversy within one chapter would be more helpful for the reader to understand the background and see how different conclusions may be drawn from the scientific evidence on the issue. Therefore, we were looking for authors who are not only experts in their field but who were also willing to produce an objective description of the different, conflicting views one might have on a controversial issue. We asked authors to describe the “school of thought” in favour and against an argument with equal emphasis and finally to draw a conclusion which at its best would be helpful for the reader to resolve the controversy when thinking about it at the bedside. Within

the ESICM, and also among our worldwide circle of friends and colleagues it was easy to find authors who could deliver such an article within a tight deadline. For that we are extremely grateful. It is a special pleasure for us to be able to thank all of these individuals for the excellent work they have done in preparing their manuscripts, reading and editing their chapters and especially for being as balanced with their views as possible. Without them this book would never have become a reality. We would also like to thank the ESICM office staff for their help with editing and Thomas Hopfe and his wonderful team at MWV in Berlin, Germany, especially Claudia Leonhardt and Nina Heinlein, for their excellent support from the publishing house. Without their friendly but crucial efforts to keep all of us within our timeframes we would not have been able to present the book in time for our Lisbon meeting.

The book tries to address the many controversial topics that we face within our specialty. Although we neither intended nor hoped to cover every controversy in intensive care medicine we are happy that many of the most relevant topics have been addressed. The respective chapters are organised in sections on acute respiratory failure, acute circulatory failure, acute kidney injury, sepsis and infection, neuro-intensive care, acute bleeding, organisational issues, surgical intensive care and trauma, and adjunctive issues. We hope that the readers will find their way through all of these controversial areas and learn something helpful that will be of use in daily clinical practice. We hope that you, the reader, will enjoy reading this book as much as we have enjoyed producing it!

Ralf Kühlen (Chair of the Editorial and Publishing Committee)

Rui P. Moreno (President Elect of the ESICM)

V. Marco Ranieri (President of the ESICM)

Andrew Rhodes (Chair of the Division of Scientific Affairs)

Content

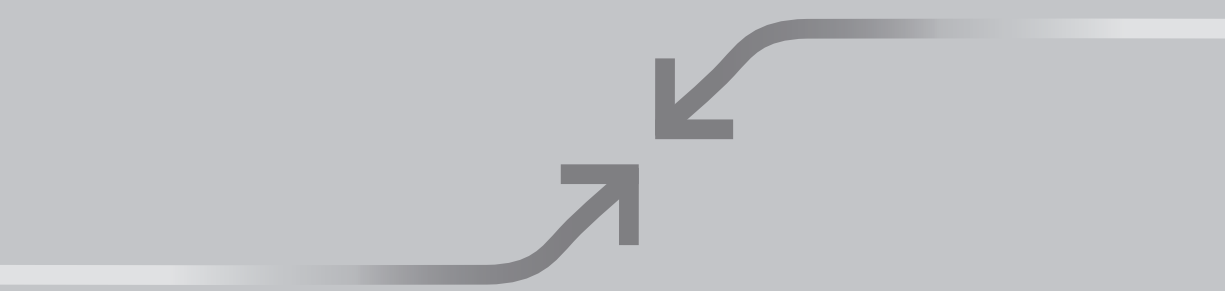
A. Acute respiratory failure	1
Noninvasive ventilation in hypoxemic respiratory insufficiency _____	3
<i>Gabriela Ferreyra and V. Marco Ranieri</i>	
Weaning: Protocols vs. clinically driven _____	11
<i>Rolf Dembinski and Ralf Kühlen</i>	
Pressure-volume curves: Useful in clinical practice _____	19
<i>Massimo Borelli, Lluís Blanch and Umberto Lucangelo</i>	
Replacing or restricting fluids:	
Timing, dosing and choosing the type of fluid in patients with or at risk for ALI/ARDS _____	29
<i>Ronald J. Trof and A. B. Johan Groeneveld</i>	
Spontaneous versus mechanical ventilation _____	37
<i>Christian Putensen, Thomas Muters, Stefan Kreyer and Hermann Wrigge</i>	
The role of tracheostomy in ventilatory care _____	47
<i>Hans Flaatten</i>	
B. Acute circulatory failure	55
Controversies in cardiac output monitoring _____	57
<i>Justin Woods and Andrew Rhodes</i>	
Crystalloids versus colloids versus albumin: Where do we stand? _____	63
<i>Tobias M. Merz and Simon Finfer</i>	
ScvO ₂ as a marker for resuscitation in intensive care _____	77
<i>Jean-Louis Vincent</i>	
Calcium sensitisers versus dobutamine in acute heart failure _____	83
<i>Miguel Tavares, Etienne Gayat, Brice Lortat Jacob and Alexandre Mebazaa</i>	
Macro vs. micro targets for haemodynamic support _____	103
<i>Daniel De Backer, Gustavo Ospina-Tascon and Ana Paula Neves</i>	
Right heart failure determines outcome _____	111
<i>Jan Poelaert and Vincent Umbrain</i>	
Do we really need SPV/PPV to detect low filling status? _____	119
<i>Jacques-André Romand and Karim Bendjelid</i>	

Vasopressors in the patient with shock _____	127
<i>Gwenhaël Colin, Virginie Maxime and Djillali Annane</i>	
Controversies in coronary care _____	133
<i>Elias Knobel, Marcos Knobel, Antonio Eduardo Pesaro and José Marconi A. Sousa</i>	
 C. Acute kidney injury _____	 143
Renal replacement therapies: When, how, and how much? _____	145
<i>Kai Singbartl and John A. Kellum</i>	
Anticoagulation for renal replacement therapy: Heparin or citrate _____	153
<i>Heleen M. Oudemans-van Straaten</i>	
 D. Sepsis and infection _____	 163
Diagnosis of Ventilator-associated Pneumonia _____	165
<i>Jean Chastre, Charles-Edouard Luyt, Alain Combes and Jean-Louis Trouillet</i>	
Antibiotic combination vs. monotherapy in critically ill patients with pneumonia _____	175
<i>Thiago Lisboa, Alejandro Rodriguez and Jordi Rello</i>	
Do antibiotic protocols impact on resistance? _____	183
<i>Christian Brun-Buisson</i>	
The activated protein C controversy _____	193
<i>François Philippart, Cédric Bruel, Olfa Hamzaoui, Benoît Misset and Jean Carlet</i>	
Corticosteroids in septic shock _____	205
<i>Charles L. Sprung and Djillali Annane</i>	
Controversies in goal-directed therapy: Venous saturations and lactate _____	211
<i>Tim C. Jansen and Jan Bakker</i>	
Starting and stopping antibiotic therapy _____	219
<i>Marc Leone and Claude Martin</i>	
MRSA control _____	227
<i>Katharina Kranzer and Geoff Bellingan</i>	

E. Neuro-intensive care	237
Does ICP monitoring improve outcome after traumatic brain injury? _____	239
<i>Thomas Geeraerts and David K. Menon</i>	
What care should be provided for poor grade subarachnoid haemorrhage patients? _____	247
<i>Maria Giulia Abate and Giuseppe Citerio</i>	
Induced hypothermia to treat neurological injuries _____	257
<i>Kees H. Polderman</i>	
Can we increase/lengthen the time window from 3–6 hours for thrombolysis after stroke? _____	267
<i>Malcolm R. Macleod</i>	
Neuroprotective ventilation _____	275
<i>Odin Barbosa da Silva, Gustavo Trindade Henriques Filho and Jorge Luiz da Rocha Paranhos</i>	
F. Acute bleeding	285
Monitoring the coagulation _____	287
<i>Rubens C. Costa Filho</i>	
Management of refractory bleeding _____	311
<i>Oliver Grottke, Jörg Brokmann and Rolf Rossaint</i>	
G. Organisational issues	321
Optimisation of patient process and workflow _____	323
<i>Hans Ulrich Rothen</i>	
Reducing the number of adverse events in intensive care units _____	337
<i>Andreas Valentin</i>	
Early discharge from the ICU is safe _____	343
<i>Michael Hiesmayr and Daniel Schmidlin</i>	
Implementation of surveillance networks _____	353
<i>Mercedes Palomar, Francisco Álvarez-Lerma, Pedro Olaechea and Ingrid Morales</i>	
Should hospitals have a medical emergency team? _____	363
<i>Richard J. Price and Brian H. Cuthbertson</i>	
E-learning _____	373
<i>Antonios Liolios</i>	

High acuity nurse patient ratio – is it cost-effective? _____	393
<i>Dominique M. Vandijck and Stijn I. Blot</i>	
The role of specialist (neurological critical care) units _____	407
<i>Maria Jose Garcia Monge and Peter J.D. Andrews</i>	
Building and using outcome prediction models: Should we be lumpers or splitters? _____	415
<i>Rui P. Moreno and Susana Afonso</i>	
Specialty of intensive care: Primary specialty vs. supraspecialty _____	421
<i>José-María Domínguez-Roldán</i>	
H. Surgical intensive care and trauma _____	431
Fast track after cardiac surgery _____	433
<i>Luiz F. Poli-de-Figueiredo, Alexandre Biasi Cavalcanti, Filomena R.B. Gomes Galas and Ludhmila Abrahão Hajjar</i>	
Fluid: Replace or restrict? _____	443
<i>Bernard P. Cholley</i>	
Bedside surgery in the ICU _____	449
<i>F. Oliveira Martins, Ana Luisa Jardim and Pedro Amado</i>	
I. Adjunctive issues _____	461
Technology assessment and procurement: ‘Monitoring the monitor’ _____	463
<i>Max Jonas, Carl Waldmann and Michael Imhoff</i>	
Controversies in intensive care sedation: Continuous infusions in awake patients and end-of-life sedation _____	473
<i>David Crippen</i>	
Tight glucose control: Should we target normoglycemia or an intermediate level? _____	481
<i>Jean-Charles Preiser and Philippe Devos</i>	
Goals for nutrition support in the ICU _____	487
<i>Jan Wernerman</i>	
Pain and stress in the ICU: All in the mind? _____	493
<i>Richard D. Griffiths and Christina Jones</i>	
Controversies on donation after cardiac death _____	503
<i>Rui Maio, Jorge Cruz and Jose Fernando Teixeira</i>	
Is there a role for extracorporeal support in hepatic failure? _____	513
<i>Ludwig Kramer, Crispiana Cozowicz and Reinhard Kitzberger</i>	

A. Acute respiratory failure



Noninvasive ventilation in hypoxemic respiratory insufficiency _____	3
<i>Gabriela Ferreyra and V. Marco Ranieri</i>	
Weaning: Protocols vs. clinically driven _____	11
<i>Rolf Dembinski and Ralf Kuhlen</i>	
Pressure-volume curves: Useful in clinical practice _____	19
<i>Massimo Borelli, Lluís Blanch and Umberto Lucangelo</i>	
Replacing or restricting fluids: Timing, dosing and choosing the type of fluid in patients with or at risk for ALI/ARDS _____	29
<i>Ronald J. Trof and A. B. Johan Groeneveld</i>	
Spontaneous versus mechanical ventilation _____	37
<i>Christian Putensen, Thomas Muders, Stefan Kreyer and Hermann Wrigge</i>	
The role of tracheostomy in ventilatory care _____	47
<i>Hans Flaatten</i>	

