GSTT Severe Respiratory Failure Regional Referral Guideline

Criteria for referral of patients with potentially reversible severe acute respiratory failure for consideration of retrieval and ECMO

Potentially reversible aetiology

Adequate gases but inability to achieve lung protective ventilation
• Vt >6mL/kg ideal body weight
• Pplat >30cmH2O

Refractory respiratory failure despite lung protective ventilation
• Hypoxaemia (PaO2:FiO2 <13.3kPa)
• Hypercapnoea (pH <7.2)

Severe asthma (pH <7.2)

Murray score of 3 or more

Bronchopleural fistula

7 days or less of
• FiO2 > 0.8
• Pplat > 30cmH2O

Contact GSTT ICU for advice or to discuss urgent, consultant retrieval for consideration of ECMO.

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