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| **eTable 2.** Linear mixed model with a random factor for individual patient with **respiratory driving pressure** as dependent variable and group as main independent variable. |
| Variable | **Estimate** | **Standard Error** | **Lower 95% CI** | **Upper 95% CI** | **P–value** |
| **(Intercept)**  | 6.108 | 2.018 | 2.326 | 9.98 | 0.005 |
| **Group (Targeted PEEP)** | -2.602 | 0.49 | - 3.552 | - 1.652 | <0.001 |
| **Intra–abdominal pressure****(Reference category = 8 mmHg)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 mmHg | 1.131 | 0.49 | 0.181 | 2.081 | 0.022 |
| 15 mmHg | 3.298 | 0.49 | 2.348 | 4.248 | < 0.001 |
| **Baseline respiratory****driving pressure** | 0.455 | 0.064 | 0.333 | 0.577 | < 0.001 |
| **Body Mass Index** | 0.036 | 0.074 | -0.105 | 0.177 | 0.629 |
| **Interaction Group\*Intra–abdominal pressure****(Reference category intra-abdominal pressure = 8 mmHg)** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  High PEEP \* **Intra–abdominal pressure** 12 mmHg | -0.264 | 0.69 | -1.602 | 1.073 | 0.702 |
|  High PEEP \* **Intra–abdominal pressure** 15 mmHg | -1.264 | 0.69 | -2.602 | 0.073 | 0.069 |
| *Akaike Information Criterion* 797.21; *PEEP*, positive end–expiratory pressure; *IAP*, Intra–abdominal pressure; *CI*, confidence interval |

̒Targeted PEEP ̓ led to lower respiratory driving pressure values. Compared to low **intra–abdominal pressure** (8 mmHg), high **intra–abdominal pressure** (15 mmHg) increased the effect estimate significantly. The effect of high PEEP increases at higher **intra–abdominal pressure level** as showed by the interaction term.