

Appendix A. Detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria used for literature search

Inclusion Criteria

- Age of patients in study > 18 years
- Patients must have ARDS and be intubated for mechanical ventilation
- Study setting is ICUs
- Study design is either
 - Randomized controlled trial
 - Controlled studies
 - Observational cohort study
 - Case-control studies
- Mortality at any points is reported
- Driving pressure is compared with other level of driving pressure, plateau pressure or compliance/elastance

Exclusion Criteria

- Editorials, Reviews, Abstracts or Conference Proceedings
- Ineligible study designs
 - Case-series should be excluded
 - Case report should be excluded
- No relevant population or study setting
 - Age < 18 years
 - Respiratory distress/failure and ALI should be excluded
 - Operating Rooms, Emergency Rooms, PICU and NICU should be excluded
- No relevant intervention or outcome
 - Irrelevant intervention should be excluded
 - Spontaneous breathing effort (e.g. PS, NAVA, etc.) should be excluded
 - Mortality not reported
- Animal studies
- Duplications
 - Assess Inclusion/Exclusion for only one of duplications
 - The rest should be excluded as duplications
- Other irrelevance
 - Not make sense to include, but no specific reason mentioned above