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Prospective Randomized Crossover Study of a New Closed-loop Control System *versus* Pressure Support during Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation

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ABSTRACT

Background: Intellivent is a new full closed-loop controlled ventilation that automatically adjusts both ventilation and oxygenation parameters. The authors compared gas exchange and breathing pattern variability of Intellivent and pressure support ventilation (PSV).

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Chanques, Arnal, Matecki, Molinari, and Jaber have no conflicts of interest. Dr. Wysocki was the director of the Medical Research Department of Hamilton Medical when the study was designed. Dr. Wysocki is co-sharing a patent on Intellivent (WO/2007/085110 and WO/2007/085108). He did not participate in the study design, data analysis, and conclusions. Support was provided solely from institu-

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Methods: In a prospective, randomized, single-blind design crossover study, 14 patients were ventilated during the weaning phase, with Intellivent or PSV, for two periods of 24 h in a randomized order. Arterial blood gases were obtained after 1, 8, 16, and 24 h with each mode. Ventilatory parameters were recorded continuously in a breath-by-breath basis during the two study periods. The primary endpoint was oxygenation, estimated by the calculation of the difference between the $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio obtained after 24 h of ventilation and the $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio obtained at baseline in each mode. The variability in the ventilatory parameters was also evaluated by the coefficient of variation (SD to mean ratio).

Results: There were no adverse events or safety issues requiring premature interruption of both modes. The $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ (mean \pm SD) ratio improved significantly from 245 ± 75 at baseline to 294 ± 123 ($P = 0.03$) after 24 h of Intellivent. The coefficient of variation of inspiratory pressure and positive end-expiratory pressure (median [interquartile range]) were significantly higher with Intellivent, 16 [11–21] and 15 [7–23]%, compared with 6 [5–7] and 7 [5–10]% in PSV. Inspiratory pressure, positive end-expiratory pressure, and FiO_2 changes were adjusted significantly more often with Intellivent compared with PSV.

Conclusions: Compared with PSV, Intellivent during a 24-h period improved the $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio in parallel with more variability in the ventilatory support and more changes in ventilation settings.

PRESSURE support ventilation (PSV) is the most widely used assisted mode of ventilation during the weaning process, in both medical and surgical critically ill patients.¹ However, PSV provides a fixed inspiratory pressure (P_{INSP}), regardless of the patient's ventilatory demand or gas exchange, which limits breathing pattern variability.²⁻⁵ Given the high variability in disease processes and states, the application of predefined, uniform values for ventilator parameters, such as a fixed P_{INSP} or tidal volume (VT), is unlikely to provide optimal assist at all times.⁶ In contrast, variability in the breathing pattern may be useful in improving gas exchange as suggested by previous reports in animals^{7,8} or recently in humans.²

New ventilatory modes can offer ventilation automatically adjusted to the patient's ventilatory demand.^{2,5,9,10} Studies that evaluated these modes have shown benefits on the optimization of ventilation,^{2,11} burden of care,^{12,13} and duration of weaning.^{12,14} No automatic management of oxygenation (*i.e.*, both fraction of inspired oxygen [F_{IO_2}] and of the positive end-expiratory pressure [PEEP]) was available to date.^{15,16}

Intellivent is a new full closed-loop solution for passive and active breathing patients receiving invasive mechanical ventilation and includes automatic adjustment of minute ventilation (MV), F_{IO_2} , and PEEP. Intellivent has been studied in sedated, passively ventilated critically ill adult patients with acute respiratory failure, but only for short duration (2–4 h).¹⁷ To our knowledge, no physiological study has been performed to evaluate Intellivent for a longer ventilation period in nonsedated actively breathing critically ill patients and during the weaning period.

The aim of this prospective, randomized, crossover study was to compare ventilatory parameters and gas exchange between Intellivent and PSV given more than 24 h, in critically ill patients, during the weaning phase.

Compared with PSV, which provides a fixed level of assistance (P_{INSP}) regardless of the patient's ventilatory demand, we hypothesized that Intellivent would improve oxygenation by offering more variable ventilation.^{18,19}

Materials and Methods

This single-site study was carried out in the 16-bed medical-surgical intensive care unit of the St Eloi Hospital, a 660-bed teaching and referral facility of the University of Montpellier in France. The experimental protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Saint-Eloi Teaching Hospital (Comité de Protection des Personnes Sud Méditerranée IV, Montpellier, France), and written informed consent was provided by patient or next of kin. This study followed the CONSORT recommendations concerning randomized trial reporting.²⁰

Patients

From March 2011 to May 2011 (2.5 months), 50 consecutive patients were screened and 16 enrolled. The patients were included if they were in spontaneous mode (active patient,

i.e., able to trigger a breath) with an expected duration of invasive mechanical ventilation longer than 48 h. Patients were not included in case of clinical instability, whatever the reason, and when a decision to withhold life-sustaining treatment was made. Pregnant women and children younger than 18 yr were also not included.

General Ventilator Settings

The two ventilation modes (PSV and Intellivent) were given by the same ventilator (Hamilton S1; Hamilton Medical, Rhäzuns, Switzerland). The rise time (50 ms), inspiratory flow trigger (2 l/min), and expiratory trigger sensitivity (30% of the peak flow) were identical in the two modes.

PSV

In PSV, the F_{IO_2} was set to achieve a pulse oxygen saturation (SpO_2) greater than 92% and the PEEP level was set between 5 and 10 cm H_2O . The level of P_{INSP} was adjusted to obtain a VT between 6 and 8 ml/kg of predicted body weight (PBW)²¹ (as calculated with the following formula for men: $\text{PBW (kg)} = 50 + 2.3 ([\text{height (cm)}/2.54] - 60)$ and for women: $\text{PBW (kg)} = 45.5 + 2.3 ([\text{height (cm)}/2.54] - 60)$) and a respiratory rate (RR) between 20 and 30 breaths/min.

Intellivent

In Intellivent, initial MV²² is automatically determined by the ventilator according to the PBW set by the clinician. The MV is automatically adjusted to maintain end-tidal partial pressure of carbon dioxide (P_{ETCO_2}) within expert-based acceptable ranges²³ when the patient is not triggering the breath or to maintain the patient's RR within acceptable ranges, as defined by the Otis least work of breathing concept,²⁴ when the patient is triggering the breath. To adjust MV in order to maintain an acceptable range of P_{ETCO_2} or RR, the ventilator adjusts both the VT and the RR as it is in adaptive support ventilation.^{4,25} In brief, based on the breath-by-breath expiratory time constant (RC_{EXP}) estimation, optimal VT and RR are derived. When MV needs to be adjusted to keep the patient's P_{ETCO_2} or RR within the defined range, the ventilator adjusts P_{INSP} and the mandatory breath to target optimal VT and RR to the patient (appendix 1).

To avoid extreme and potentially dangerous values of VT and RR, Intellivent uses, on a breath-by-breath basis, a safety window for the given VT and RR values. The minimal target VT is defined as twice the anatomical dead space estimated from the PBW. The maximal target VT is defined as the maximal pressure (set by the clinician) times the dynamic compliance of the total respiratory system. The minimal value for the target RR is 5 breaths/min. The maximal value for the target RR is defined as the ratio $20/\text{RC}_{\text{EXP}}$.²⁶

PEEP and F_{IO_2} are automatically adjusted based on the ARDSnetwork PEEP- F_{IO_2} tables²⁷ to maintain an SpO_2 within expert-based acceptable ranges (appendices 1 and 2).

The tables are user adjustable by selecting the maximal PEEP delivered. The PEEP/ F_{IO_2} tables from the ARDSnetwork are used only as starting values in the algorithm; but adjustable by the user according to the local policies by setting the maximal PEEP value (appendix 2). Setting low maximal PEEP makes the algorithm adjusting the F_{IO_2} more than the PEEP. In case of moderate decrease in SpO_2 , F_{IO_2} increases by 10% of actual value every 30 s and PEEP increases by 1 cm H_2O every 6 min. If SpO_2 is above the target range, F_{IO_2} decreases by 5% of the actual value every minute and PEEP decreases by 1 cm H_2O every 6 min. If P_{ETCO_2} and SpO_2 informations are of poor quality or lost, the controllers automatically pause and an alarm is generated. Automatic control is resolved when signal of good quality is measured again. In addition, F_{IO_2} is automatically increased to 100% if SpO_2 is below 85%, and 100% F_{IO_2} manual bypass is still available. In addition to the adaptive support ventilation safety windows, minimal and maximal MV, F_{IO_2} , and PEEP settings are set by the users before starting Intellivent. By adjusting, on a breath-by-breath basis, the level of P_{INSP} , RR, PEEP, and F_{IO_2} , Intellivent may generate more variability than conventional ventilation such as PSV.

Protocol

We applied a prospective, randomized, single-blind crossover study design very similar to that previously reported.^{2,4,28} Determination of the first used ventilatory mode (PSV or Intellivent) was randomized. Randomization was carried out using a random-number table. Each patient was consecutively ventilated for 24 h with the PSV mode and with the Intellivent mode in a random order. Throughout the protocol, suctioning *via* the endotracheal tube was performed on a per need basis and routine care, such as physiotherapy and nursing was performed as usual in the unit.

Measurements

Standard three-lead monitoring electrodes continuously monitored heart rate and rhythm. SpO_2 was continuously monitored using pulse oximetry. Systolic and diastolic arterial blood pressures were continuously monitored through a 20-gauge catheter inserted in a radial or femoral artery. Blood samples were obtained at baseline (in the first hour after mechanical ventilation for each mode), after 8, 16, and 24 h of mechanical ventilation for arterial blood gas analysis (GEM Premier 3000 analyzer; Instrumentation Laboratory, Lexington, MA) through the arterial catheter.

The following variables such as airway pressures (P_{INSP} as inspiratory pressure level above PEEP delivered by the ventilator, P_{MEAN} as mean airway pressure, and P_{MAX} as maximal airway pressure), VT, RR, MV, RC_{EXP} , PEEP, F_{IO_2} , and P_{ETCO_2} were collected continuously breath-by-breath, by a dedicated software (Study recorder software; Hamilton Medical) *via* a RS32 cable, exported through a Universal Serial Bus support and analyzed using a customized software based on Microsoft Excel® (Redmond, WA).

Every 8 h, according to the unit protocol, the nurse in charge of the patient evaluated the pain and comfort using the Behavioral Pain Scale and the sedation and agitation level using the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale.^{29,30} Setting changes made by the attending physician were also recorded.

Sample Size and Statistical Analysis

The primary endpoint was oxygenation, estimated by the calculation of the difference between the PaO_2/F_{IO_2} ratio obtained after 24 h of ventilation and the PaO_2/F_{IO_2} ratio obtained at baseline in each mode. To calculate the number of patients needed, we used data previously published^{2,31} showing in postoperative patients a mean PaO_2/F_{IO_2} ratio of 202 ± 48 mmHg in PSV. Assuming an α risk of 0.05 and a β risk of 0.20, we calculated that at least 14 patients would be required to identify, after 24 h of mechanical ventilation, a difference of 20% between the variation of the PaO_2/F_{IO_2} ratio obtained in Intellivent in comparison to PSV. Therefore, we decided to include 16 patients. The secondary endpoints were the variability in the ventilation variables and the time spent with acceptable ventilation. Ventilation variables were collected continuously breath-by-breath during 24 h (see above). The variability in the ventilation parameters was evaluated by the coefficients of variation for P_{INSP} , RR, VT, MV, PEEP, F_{IO_2} , RC_{EXP} , and P_{ETCO_2} calculated as the ratio of the SD to the mean multiplied by 100 as previously described.^{2,32} Acceptable ventilation was defined with very permissive ranges, and calculated as the number of breath with RR between 12 and 35 breaths/min, a VT between 5 and 12 ml/kg of PBW, and P_{ETCO_2} less than 55 mmHg, over the total number of breath collected.^{2,27,28} Values are expressed as median [interquartile range, IQR] or mean \pm SD according to the type of variable distribution, from data collected breath-by-breath for 24 h. Normality of the distribution was assessed with Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. Comparisons were performed using Wilcoxon and Mann–Whitney tests according, and two-tailed P values less than 0.05 were considered significant. Statistical analysis was performed using SAS/STAT software version 8.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) by an independent statistician.

Results

Among the 16 enrolled patients, 2 did not complete the study because of early extubation, and 14 patients were finally analyzed (fig. 1). There were no safety issues requiring premature interruption of Intellivent for the studied patients. Diagnosis at the time of admission in intensive care unit and clinical characteristics of the patients are shown in table 1. Ventilation settings and main monitored parameters obtained during the first hour after inclusion were shown in table 2.

Arterial blood gases were shown in the table 3. The PaO_2/F_{IO_2} ratio improved significantly from 245 ± 75 at baseline to 294 ± 123 mmHg ($P = 0.035$) after 24 h of Intellivent,

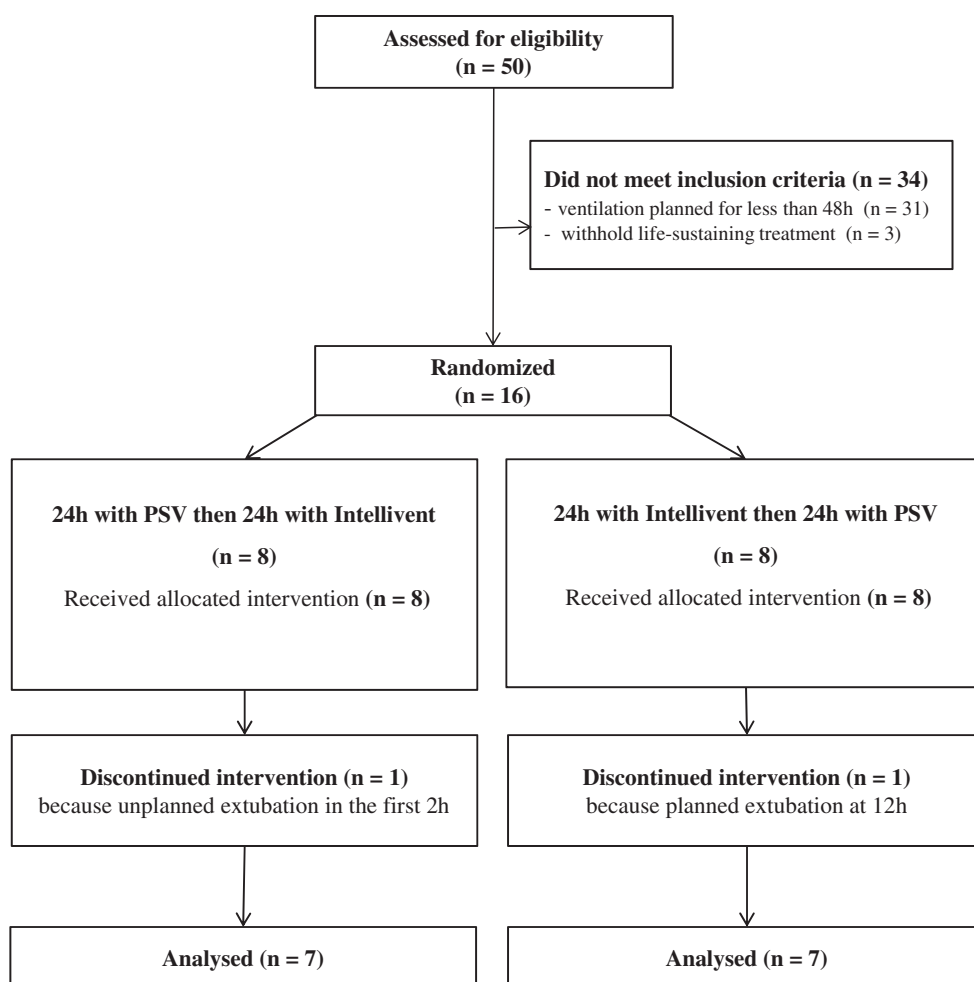


Fig. 1. Trial profile. PSV = pressure support ventilation.

Table 1. Characteristics of the 14 Patients Studied

Patient	Sex	Age, yr	Height, cm	Weight, kg	BMI, kg/m ²	SAPS II
1	M	32	174	70	23	37
2	F	52	154	46	19	38
3	M	62	180	112	35	55
4	M	46	170	68	23	33
5	M	65	175	87	28	42
6	F	56	165	90	33	55
7	F	21	170	72	25	23
8	M	71	160	58	23	34
9	F	50	168	141	50	31
10	M	61	180	110	34	58
11	M	52	173	80	27	61
12	M	68	170	90	31	29
13	M	83	170	71	25	67
14	M	62	162	71	27	38
	—	58 [50–64]	170 [166–174]	76 [70–30]	27 [24–33]	38 [33–55]

Data are presented as median [interquartile range].

BMI = body mass index; F = female; M = male; SAPS II = Simplified Acute Physiology Score II.

whereas no significant change was observed with PSV (fig. 2). The P_{aO_2}/F_{IO_2} ratio variation after 24 h of mechanical ventilation was significantly higher in Intellivent than in PSV mode ($+18 \pm 32\%$ vs. $-3 \pm 20\%$; $P = 0.026$).

The 24-h average values of the ventilation parameters are reported in table 4. VT was 7.6 ml/kg [IQR, 6.6–9.0] during PSV period compared with 8.4 ml/kg [IQR, 7.9–8.6] PBW during Intellivent period ($P = 0.04$). The RR was 22 breaths/min [IQR, 19–27] during PSV period compared with 19 breaths/min [IQR, 15–22] during Intellivent period ($P = 0.01$). Typical tracings obtained during 24 h of both PSV and Intellivent are shown in figure 3. There is obviously more variability in P_{INSP} , PEEP, and F_{IO_2} with Intellivent as compared with PSV. The coefficient of variation of P_{INSP} and PEEP was significantly higher with Intellivent as compared with PSV (table 4).

Times spent in different ranges of VT, RR, and P_{ETCO_2} in both modalities are shown in figure 4. The number of changes in P_{INSP} , PEEP, and F_{IO_2} was significantly higher with Intellivent compared with PSV (table 5). No significant differences were observed between the two modes for the Behavioral Pain Scale and Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale scores over the study period.

Discussion

The current study demonstrates that over a 24-h study period, ventilation with Intellivent was associated with a higher P_{aO_2}/F_{IO_2} ratio and a greater variability in P_{INSP} and PEEP compared with PSV. In addition, the study suggests that the use of Intellivent for 24 h of mechanical ventilation is feasible and safe for critically ill patients during the weaning period.

The current study is the first to report long-term (*i.e.*, 24-h period) safe use of the Intellivent mode and to associate its use with improvement in oxygenation. The improvement in oxygenation observed with Intellivent is probably not

related to a single mechanism, but we could speculate that it is because of more complex association of different features of Intellivent. Some features related to Intellivent can be proposed such as a slight, but significantly, higher airway pressures (P_{INSP} and P_{MAX} , not P_{MEAN}) leading a higher VT (table 4), an increase in variability of inspiratory pressures and PEEP, which may assimilated to more physiological sigh, and be considered as repeated alveolar auto-recruitment. Although, median VT was significantly higher in Intellivent than in PSV (8.4 [IQR, 7.9–8.6] vs. 7.6 [IQR, 6.6–9.0] ml/kg PBW; $P = 0.04$; table 4), VT remained lower than 10 ml/kg PBW more than 90% of the time spent in each modes with no significant difference between both Intellivent and PSV (fig. 4). Indeed, risk factors to develop acute lung injury or acute respiratory distress syndrom in passive ventilated patients are VT above 10 ml/kg PBW and an end-inspiratory pressure above 30 cm H_2O . In the current study, no patient was passively ventilated, and the association of a VT above 10 ml/kg PBW and an end-inspiratory pressure above 30 cm H_2O occurred together exceptionally either in Intellivent or PSV. Low VT with subsequently high transpulmonary pressure may basically be more dangerous than higher VT with lower transpulmonary pressure. In combination with more variability in airway pressures (P_{INSP} , P_{MAX} and P_{MEAN}) and in PEEP with Intellivent, it suggests causality between Intellivent-induced variability and improvement in oxygenation. Several publications have already reported better oxygenation when pressure or volume applied to the respiratory system is variable, whatever the mode of ventilation being used.^{2,7,8,33} The current study can only speculate on the mechanism responsible for such improvement. The Jensen inequality, *i.e.*, the local nonlinear pressure–volume relationship, has been suggested as a mechanistic explanation,^{34,35} heterogeneity in local time constant,^{17,36} improved

Diagnosis in Intensive Care Unit	Number of Days after Intubation and Enrolment	Number of Days after Weaning Started and Enrolment	Total Duration of Ventilation, d	Outcome
Septic shock–pneumonia	1	1	16	Died
Liver transplant	1	1	4	Survived
Septic shock–peritonitis	4	3	7	Survived
Liver traumatism	5	1	14	Survived
Septic shock–pneumonia	4	1	10	Died
Pneumonia	6	3	9	Survived
Liver transplant	2	1	4	Survived
Peritonitis	1	1	9	Died
Peritonitis	1	1	5	Survived
Septic shock–peritonitis	3	2	6	Survived
Hepatic encephalitis	1	1	3	Survived
Septic shock–pneumonia	2	1	6	Survived
Peritonitis	3	2	11	Survived
Polytraumatized	8	1	24	Survived
	2 [1–4]	1 [1–2]	8 [5–11]	—

Table 2. Ventilation Settings and Main Monitored Parameters Obtained the First Hour after Inclusion in PSV and Intellivent

Parameters	PSV (n = 14)	Intellivent (n = 14)	P Value
Manual ventilation settings			
Pressure support level, cm H ₂ O	11.0 [7.8–12.0]	NA	NA
Fraction of inspired oxygen, %	35 [30–40]	NA	NA
PEEP, cm H ₂ O	7.5 [5.0–9.5]	NA	NA
Automatic ventilation settings			
%MV, %	NA	104 [100–142]	NA
Fraction of inspired oxygen, %	NA	30 [30–32]	NA
PEEP, cm H ₂ O	NA	5.5 [5.0–6.8]	NA
Monitored parameters			
SpO ₂ , %	97.5 [97.0–98.8]	96.5 [96.0–97.8]	0.063
P _{INSP} , cm H ₂ O	11.0 [9.5–12.0]	10.4 [8.7–14.0]	0.055
RR, breaths/min	21 [16–25]	20 [15–22]	0.637
VT, ml/kg PBW	7.5 [7.2–9.3]	8.3 [7.3–9.3]	0.432
MV, l/min	10.3 [9.6–12.3]	10.4 [9.6–12.1]	0.851
P _{ETCO₂} , mmHg	37 [34–40]	40 [35–41]	0.342
RC _{EXP} , s	0.64 [0.54–0.76]	0.63 [0.49–0.73]	0.975

Data are presented as median [interquartile range].

MV = minute ventilation; %MV = percentage of minute ventilation; NA = not applicable; NS = not significant; PEEP = positive end-expiratory pressure; P_{ETCO₂} = end-tidal partial pressure of carbon dioxide; P_{INSP} = inspiratory airway pressure; PBW = predicted body weight; PSV = pressure support ventilation; RC_{EXP} = expiratory time constant; RR = respiratory rate; SpO₂ = pulsatile oxygen saturation; VT = tidal volume.

surfactant production,³⁷ and improved ventilation–perfusion matching³⁸ may also play a role in better oxygenation with more variable ventilation.

More ventilator adjustments were made during Intellivent ventilation compared with PSV. Although expected with closed-loop systems, which are by design able to continuously adjust the ventilatory parameters according

to the changes in patient's condition, it is worthwhile discussing the possible impact of adjusting the ventilator more often. First, as already discussed earlier, more adjustment makes ventilation more variable, and this may have clinical impacts (such as oxygenation in the current study). Second, it may help to maintain the patient within pre-defined acceptable ventilation ranges. In the current study,

Table 3. Arterial Blood Gases between PSV and Intellivent

	H1	H8	H16	H24	P Value
pH					
PSV	7.43 [7.39–7.45]	7.42 [7.38–7.47]	7.42 [7.37–7.45]	7.42 [7.37–7.47]	0.997
Intellivent	7.40 [7.37–7.45]	7.42 [7.38–7.46]	7.41 [7.39–7.45]	7.44 [7.38–7.47]	0.618
Paco ₂ , mmHg					
PSV	39.0 [37.0–44.8]	40.5 [37.0–48.5]	42.0 [37.0–46.8]	42.0 [39.5–46.5]	0.922
Intellivent	40.5 [36.5–44.5]	40.0 [38.0–43.8]	40.5 [36.8–44.0]	41.0 [36.0–42.8]	0.891
Pao ₂ , mmHg					
PSV	97.0 [72.5–121.0]	95.0 [86.3–108.8]	96.5 [84.3–105.3]	90.5 [75.0–110.5]	0.625
Intellivent	72.0 [66.5–79.8]*	74.5 [69.3–90.3]*	74.0 [66.0–90.0]	78.5 [67.5–107.8]	0.496
Plasma bicarbonate, mM					
PSV	24.5 [22.0–29.2]	25.6 [23.3–29.4]	26.0 [23.3–30.5]	26.0 [24.0–31.5]	0.969
Intellivent	23.9 [21.3–31.1]	24.5 [22.3–30.5]	25.5 [22.5–30.6]	26.0 [21.4–29.2]	0.335
Sao ₂ (%)					
PSV	98.0 [94.5–98.8]	98.0 [97.0–98.0]	97.5 [97.0–98.0]	97.5 [95.3–98.0]	0.939
Intellivent	94.5 [92.8–96.5]*	94.5 [92.2–96.2]*	95.0 [93.3–96.8]*	96.0 [93.3–98.5]	0.335

Data are presented as median [interquartile range].

*P < 0.05 between PSV and Intellivent.

Paco₂ = arterial pressure of carbon dioxide; Pao₂ = arterial pressure of oxygen; PSV = pressure support ventilation; Sao₂ = oxygen saturation of arterial blood.

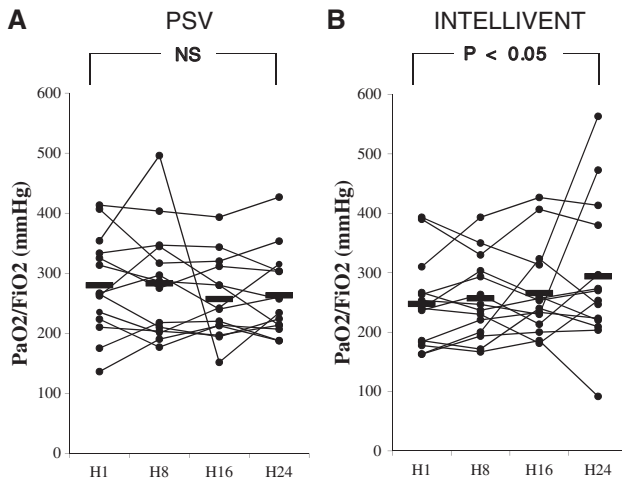


Fig. 2. Individual variations in $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio for the 14 patients after mechanical ventilation with pressure support ventilation (PSV; A) and with Intellivent (B). The horizontal bars represent the mean values. P value refers to the test of the first versus the last time point. FiO_2 = inspired oxygen fraction; NS = not significant; PaO_2 = partial pressure of arterial oxygen.

time spent by the patient with acceptable ventilation during Intellivent was not very different compared with PSV (fig. 4). However, during Intellivent, 11 of 14 patients (76%) spent more than 90% of ventilation time in acceptable ventilation (as defined in the methodology section) as compared with only 5 patients with PSV ($P = 0.04$). In other studies,^{39,40} Intellivent was able to keep the patient more often with acceptable ventilation. In these studies,^{39,40} most of the patients were not triggering the breath

and were therefore fully controlled by the ventilator. In the current study, all patients were able to trigger the breath and to control their breathing pattern at least partially. The definition of “acceptable ventilation”, which was relatively permissive in the current study (because of the selected population), is indeed also important in analyzing the results and can be extensively discussed. Finally, although not analyzed in the current study, the number of ventilator adjustments with Intellivent may reflect how often the ventilator *should be* adjusted, whereas the number of changes in PSV may reflect basically how often the ventilator *can be* adjusted manually considering human resources and knowledge available at the bedside day and night. The current study is definitely not able to draw any conclusions on possible clinical impact of continuous and more frequent adjustments of the ventilator but give enough confidence to design large randomized controlled trials to address such a question. In addition, the current study is the first to report the use of Intellivent for more than couple of hours, in adult patients with variable conditions and during the weaning phase.

All patients were able to complete the study, and no patients were removed from Intellivent for major safety issues, suggesting that 24-h use of Intellivent may be safe in critically ill patients during the weaning period.

This study has some limitations. The study was not designed to evaluate the safeness and effectiveness of Intellivent as a routine mode of ventilation in patients in intensive care unit and therefore is underpowered for that. Interestingly, in three patients, FiO_2 had to be adjusted

Table 4. Ventilation Parameters with PSV and with Intellivent

	Median		P Value	Coefficient of Variation, %		P Value
	PSV (n = 14)	Intellivent (n = 14)		PSV (n = 14)	Intellivent (n = 14)	
P_{INSP} , cm H_2O	12 [10–13]	14 [12–18]	0.013	10 [8–18]	21 [13–25]	0.019
P_{MEAN} , cm H_2O	11 [8–13]	10 [8–13]	0.40	6 [5–7]	16 [11–21]	0.01
P_{MAX} , cm H_2O	20 [16–21]	22 [18–25]	0.006	7 [5–9]	15 [10.4–17.9]	0.006
RR, breaths/min	22 [19–27]	19 [15–22]	0.01	19 [16–25]	20 [18–28]	0.14
VT, ml/kg PBW	7.6 [6.6–9.0]	8.4 [7.9–8.6]	0.04	20 [16–24]	16 [14–23]	0.53
MV, l/min	10.9 [9.4–12.0]	11.0 [9.7–11.4]	0.37	16 [13–18]	16 [13–21]	0.37
Compliance, ml/ cm H_2O	59 [49–84]	55 [42–80]	0.12	25 [20–27]	27 [20–45]	0.27
RC_{EXP} , s	0.58 [0.51–0.74]	0.61 [0.53–0.71]	0.41	16 [12–20]	16 [13–23]	0.17
PETCO_2 , mmHg	38.5 [34.3–41.2]	37.8 [34.5–39.5]	0.47	7 [6–8]	6 [5–8]	0.24
SpO_2 , %	98.0 [96.7–98.5]	96.2 [95.0–97.0]	0.02	1 [1–2]	1 [1–2]	0.63
FiO_2 , %	33.4 [30.0–41.4]	31.1 [30.0–32.4]	0.13	0.2 [0.0–8.0]	13 [4–20]	0.05
PEEP, cm H_2O	7.8 [5.0–9.7]	5.4 [5.0–7.8]	0.31	7 [5–10]	15 [7–23]	0.01

Data are presented as median [interquartile range].

FiO_2 = oxygen inspired fraction; MV = minute ventilation; %MV = percentage of minute ventilation; NA = not applicable; NS = not significant; PBW = predicted body weight; PEEP = positive end-expiratory pressure; PETCO_2 = end-tidal partial pressure of carbon dioxide; P_{INSP} = inspiratory pressure level above PEEP delivered by the ventilator; P_{MAX} = maximal airway pressure; P_{MEAN} = mean airway pressure; PSV = pressure support ventilation; RC_{EXP} = expiratory time constant; RR = respiratory rate; SpO_2 = pulsatile saturation in oxygen; VT = tidal volume.

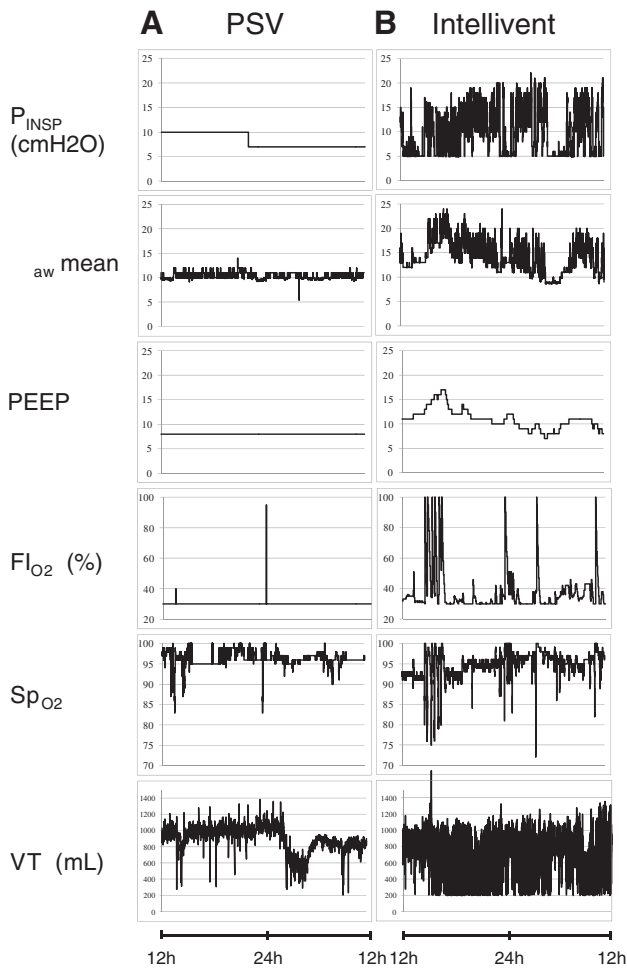


Fig. 3. Experimental records that help in illustrating the effects of the two ventilatory modes during 24h of mechanical ventilation with pressure support ventilation (PSV; A) and with Intellivent (B) in a representative patient. From top to bottom, inspiratory pressure above end-expiratory pressure (P_{INSP}), mean airway pressure (P_{MEAN}), positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), fraction of inspired oxygen (F_{IO_2}), pulsatile oxygen saturation (S_{pO_2}), and tidal volume (VT). Note that P_{INSP} , P_{MEAN} , PEEP, and F_{IO_2} are more variable in Intellivent than in PSV.

manually because of a discrepancy between S_{pO_2} and S_{aO_2} obtained from arterial blood sampling. However, because of the population selection (few hypoxemic patients), the F_{IO_2} and PEEP algorithms and the robustness of S_{pO_2} information (filtering, artifact, and motion rejections, and so on) for running the loops were not really challenged in the current study. Moreover, although we evaluated the agitation and sedation–analgesia levels every 4h (using Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale and Behavioral Pain Scale scores), there was no specific auto-evaluation of the ventilatory comfort.

Conclusions

The current prospective study is the first to report 24-h use of Intellivent in spontaneously breathing patients during

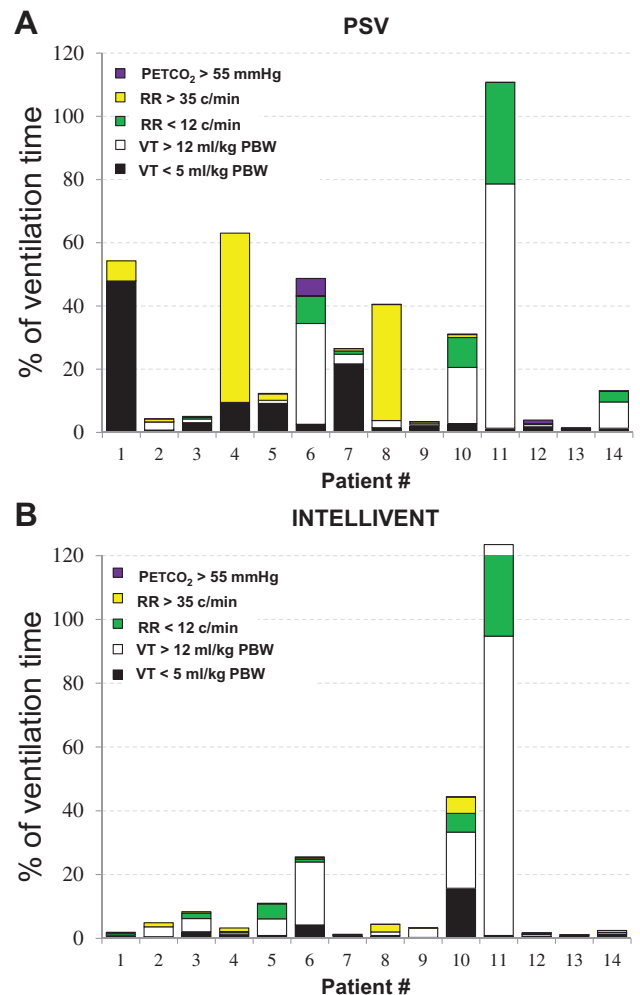


Fig. 4. Contributions to inadequate ventilation of low tidal volume (VT) of <5 ml/kg of predicted body weight (PBW), high VT of >12 ml/kg PBW, low respiratory rate (RR) of <12 breaths/min, high RR of >35 breaths/min, and high end-tidal partial pressure of carbon dioxide ($PETCO_2$) of >55 mmHg during the 24h of pressure support ventilation (PSV, A) and 24h of Intellivent (B) in the 14 studied patients. A patient can be in adequate ventilation for low RR and high VT, at the same time that may explain why patient number 11 spent more than 100% of the time in inadequate ventilation with Intellivent. With PSV, inadequate ventilation represented 17.1% [interquartile range, 4.3–39.6] of the total ventilation duration in this mode; with Intellivent, inadequate ventilation represented 3.7% [interquartile range, 1.8–10.1] of the total ventilation duration in this mode.

the weaning process. As compared with PSV, the P_{aO_2}/F_{IO_2} ratio at 24h was improved in Intellivent with more variability in airway pressures, PEEP, and F_{IO_2} . Adjustment of the ventilator was much more frequent with Intellivent as compared with PSV, which may explain the variability and ultimately the better oxygenation observed with Intellivent. The current study definitely warrants further prospective controlled studies to estimate the potential clinical impact of Intellivent as compared with conventional modes of ventilation.

Table 5. Number of Changes in P_{INSP} , PEEP, and FiO_2 during PSV and Intellivent

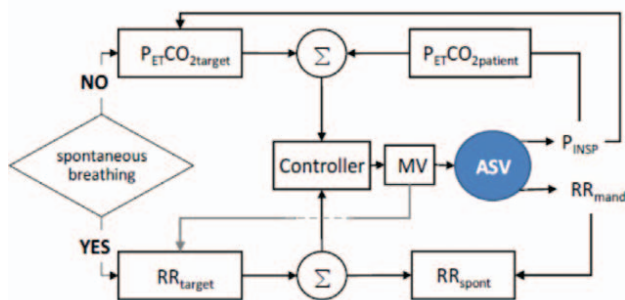
Patients	Changes in P_{INSP} No. of Events		Changes in PEEP No. of Events		Changes in FiO_2 No. of Events	
	PSV	Intellivent	PSV	Intellivent	PSV	Intellivent
1	3	1,347	0	5	9	4
2	0	2,384	0	4	0	0
3	0	4,125	0	34	1	155
4	3	2,127	0	26	2	175
5	0	4,999	0	6	1	8
6	1	2,910	0	19	0	32
7	1	1,748	0	4	0	103
8	2	2,416	0	12	0	137
9	2	2,164	3	10	1	189
10	2	4,283	0	42	4	515
11	2	113	0	0	0	0
12	1	2,037	1	13	0	0
13	0	345	1	17	1	70
14	0	1,850	1	14	1	339
Median [interquartile range]	1 [0–2]	2,146 [1,774–2,787]**	0 [0–1]	13 [5–19]**	1 [0–1]	87 [5–170]**

** $P < 0.01$ between PSV and Intellivent.

FiO_2 = fraction of inspired oxygen; PEEP = positive end-expiratory pressure; P_{INSP} = inspiratory airway pressure; PSV = pressure support ventilation.

Appendix 1. Ventilation and Oxygenation Controllers

Ventilation



Oxygenation

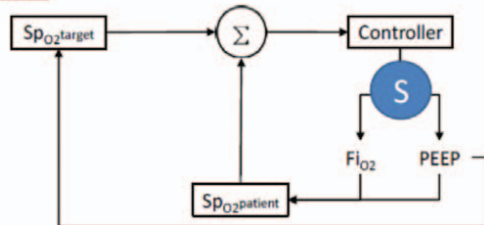


Fig. 5. Ventilation controller: First of all, the system detected whether the patient is spontaneously breathing (based on consecutive number of breaths triggered by the patient). If the patient is not spontaneously breathing, the regulation is based on end-tidal partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PETCO_2) and if the patient's PETCO_2 is outside the target ranges, the controller adjusts minute ventilation (MV): increasing if PETCO_2 is above the target range and decreasing if PETCO_2 is below the target range. If the patient is spontaneously breathing, the regulation is based on the respiratory rate (RR) and if the patient's

RR (RR_{spont}) is outside the target range, MV is adjusted: increasing MV if the patient RR is above the target range and decreasing if the patient RR is below the target range. In both situations, changes in MV are going through the adaptive support ventilation (ASV) controller, which is deciding whether the mandatory RR (RR_{mand}) or the level of inspiratory pressure (P_{INSP}) should be adjusted. There is an adjustment of the PETCO_2 target range based on the level of P_{INSP} : the higher the P_{INSP} , the more permissive the target ranges. There is also an adjustment of the RR target range based on MV: the higher the MV, the wider that the RR target range. Oxygenation controller: The patient's pulsatile oxygen saturation (SpO_2) value is compared with SpO_2 target range, and if the patient's SpO_2 is outside the target, the controller is adjusting the fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO_2) or the positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP), depending on the selector (S). The choice between PEEP and FiO_2 is based on a predefined PEEP– FiO_2 table which is adjustable depending on the user-set maximal PEEP. There is an adjustment of the target SpO_2 depending on the PEEP value: the higher the PEEP, the more permissive is the target. In case of moderate decrease in SpO_2 , FiO_2 increases by 10% of actual value every 30 s and PEEP increases by 1 cm H_2O every 6 min. If SpO_2 is above the target range, FiO_2 decreases by 5% of the actual value every minute and PEEP decreases by 1 cm H_2O every 6 min. A minimal PEEP level can be set by the user which may limit in some cases a rapid decrease in PEEP which may result in derecruitment over time. If PETCO_2 and SpO_2 informations are of poor quality or lost, the controllers automatically pause and an alarm is generated. Automatic control is resolved when signal of good quality is measured again. In addition, FiO_2 is automatically increased to 100% if SpO_2 is below 85%, and 100% FiO_2 manual bypass is still available.

Appendix 2. PEEP–FiO₂ Table Algorithm

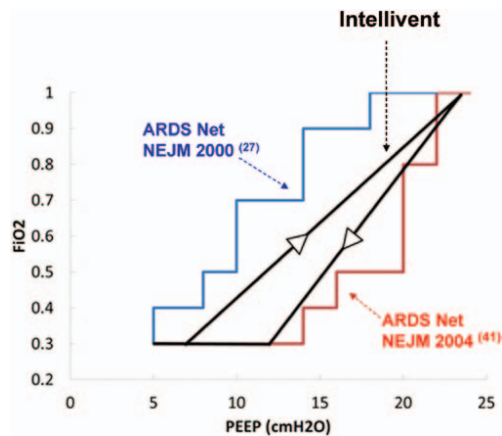


Fig. 6. Positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) and fraction of inspired oxygen (FiO₂) are automatically adjusted based on the ARDSnetwork PEEP–FiO₂ tables^{27,41} to maintain pulsatile oxygen saturation (SpO₂) within expert-based acceptable ranges. The tables are user adjustable by selecting the maximal PEEP delivered. The PEEP/FiO₂ tables from the ARDSnetwork are used only as starting values in the algorithm; but adjustable by the user according to the local policies by setting the maximal PEEP value.

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