



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
VENTILATORY SUPPORT IN ELDER.
PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE PATIENTS.

1° EDITION

Hotel Royal Continental

March 6th - 7th 2026 - Naples (Italy)

Presidents: *Antonio M. Esquinas - Nicola Vargas*





Conference Presentation

Every day in clinical practice, we come across patients requiring care in a palliative context or elderly patients with clinical characteristics or a legal prerogative of do-not-intubate (DNI). Patients with respiratory failure can benefit from palliative use of non-invasive ventilation (NIV) not only in the sense of comfort care. Efforts have been made in the past to consider this therapeutic approach as an integral part of caring for all patients under invasive mechanical ventilation. Evidence from international guidelines and consensus statements has shown that NIV can be applied in a clinical context even out of the intensive care unit (ICU). This is possible if NIV is applied from a clinical, ethical, physiopathological, organizational, and rehabilitative point of view.

Antonio M. Esquinas - Murcia, Spain

Nicola Vargas - Avellino, Italy

SEGRETERIA SCIENTIFICA

Elisa Salsano, Immacolata Alviggi, Cecilia Rispoli, Oriana Rossi



March 6th

- 08.45-09.00 Registration
- 09.00-09.10 Introduction to the Conference
Nicola Vargas (Avellino - Italy)
- 09.10-09.30 Introductory lecture on Niv and biphasic cuirass ventilation in elderly patients: epidemiology and future perspectives
Antonio M. Esquinas (Murcia - Spain)
- 09.30-11.40 **I SESSION "MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND NIV IN ELDERLY"**
Moderators: **Andrea Fabbo, Bushra Mina**
- 09.30-09.50 Lecture "The new therapeutic strategy in elderly COPD in light of Gold guidelines: triple and dual inhalation therapy"
Nicola Vargas (Avellino - Italy)
- 09.50-10.10 Impact of lung and heart comorbidities on acute and chronic respiratory failure
Pasquale Abete (Naples - Italy)
- 10.10-10.30 Pneumonia in the elderly: the role of NIV and HFNC
Filippo Fimognari (Cosenza - Italy)
- 10.30-10.50 Management of elderly patients with Delirium syndrome in elderly patients with acute respiratory failure
Virginia Boccardi (Perugia - Italy)
- 10.50-11.10 NIV use in elder medical conditions
Antonello Nicolini (Genoa - Italy)
- 11.10-11.30 Quality of life and complications after percutaneous tracheostomy
Maria Vargas (Naples - Italy)



March 6th

11.30-12.00 DISCUSSION

12.00-14.00 **II SESSION "PALLIATIVE NIV"**

• Moderators: **Antonio M. Esquinas, Filippo Fimognari**

12.00-12.20 Lecture "NIV in Palliative Medicine and END-OF-LIFE Care: the perspectives of patients, families and clinicians"
Andrea Fabbo (Modena - Italy)

12.20-12.40 Weaning mechanical ventilation in elderly
Giuseppe Servillo (Naples - Italy)

12.40-13.00 Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and NIV
Anna Stanzola (Naples - Italy)

13.00-13.20 Respiratory failure and critically ill cancer patients
S. Egbert Pravinkumar (Texas - USA)

13.20-13.40 Chronic venous insufficiency, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and post-thrombotic syndrome
Elisa Salsano (Avellino - Italy)

13.40-14.00 DISCUSSION

14.00-15.00 LUNCH



March 6th

15.00-17.20 III SESSION "MECHANICAL VENTILATION IN ELDERLY"

Moderators: *Giuseppe Rengo, S. Egbert Pravinkumar*

15.00-15.20 Lecture "Mechanical Ventilation in elderly patients: the timing"
Bushra Mina (New York USA)

15.20-15.40 Ventilatory modes in elderly: pressure support ventilation and other ventilatory options.
Sven Stieglitz (Wuppertal - Germany)

15.40-16.00 NIV in Neuromuscular patients (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and other conditions)
Giuseppe Fiorentino (Naples - Italy)

16.00-16.20 DISCUSSION

16.20-16.40 Lecture "Sarcopenia in non invasive ventilation"
Grazia Daniela Femminella (Naples-Italy)



March 7th

08.30-10.30 IV SESSION "COMPLEMENTARY USE OF NIV AND CHRONIC STABLE CONDITIONS"

Moderators: *Sven Stieglitz, Nicola Vargas*

08.30-08.50 Lecture "Use of NIV in non-surgery procedures in elderly patients (sedation, bronchoscopy, gastroscopy)"
Raffaele Scala (Arezzo - Italy)

08.50-09.10 Nocturnal NIV in COPD patients with prolonged Hypercapnia after ventilatory support for acute respiratory failure
Zühal Karakurt (Istanbul - Türkiye)

09.10-09.30 The role of NIV home in elderly patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Laura Petraglia (Naples -Italy)

09.30-09.50 The role of respiratory physiotherapy during non-invasive ventilation: devices and indications
Salvatore Musella (Naples - Italy)

09.50-10.10 Complementary use of NIV and Therapy of COPD and pulmonary fibrosis
Giorgio Castellana (Bari - Italy)

10.10-10.30 DISCUSSION



March 7th

10.30-12.40 **V SESSION "OUTCOME"**

Moderators: **Zühal Karakurt, Maria Vargas**

10.30-10.50 Lecture "Predictors of outcome of NIV in elder, palliative and END-OF-LIFE care patients"

Francesco Panero (Turin - Italy)

11.10-11.30 Prognosis following acute exacerbation of COPD treated with non-invasive mechanical ventilation

Giancarlo Garuti (Modena - Italy)

11.30-11.50 Legal Issues (Surrogacy Laws Informed Consent)

Nicola Vargas (Avellino - Italy)

12.10-12.30 Hospital organizations of ARF in elderly, palliative and END-OF-LIFE.

The role of scientific society

Andrea Cavalli (Rome - Italy)

12.30-12.50 DISCUSSION

13.10-13.30 Closure of Conference and recommendations for the future

Nicola Vargas (Avellino - Italy)

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE VENUE:

Hotel Royal Continental
Via Partenope 38/44 - 80121 - Naples - Italy

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

The official language of the Conference is English 

CME (CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION)

The Conference obtained n. 11 CME credits for the following professions:

Medical Surgeon specialized in:

Cardiology, Geriatrics, Respiratory Diseases, Internal Medicine, Thoracic Surgery, Anesthesiology, General Medicine

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