

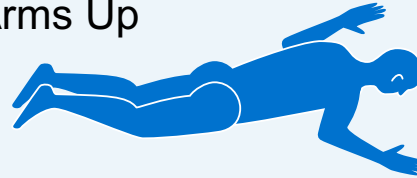
Prone Positioning in Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

Possible Positions

Arms Back



Arms Up



Swimming Position



Physiology

- Increases pulmonary compliance
- Homogenizes lung aeration
- Improves gas exchange



Clinical Data

- Prevent progression of pulmonary inflammation
- Improve oxygenation
- Decrease mortality in intubated patients with severe ARDS



Awake Prone Positioning

- Low risk, easy implementation
- May improve oxygenation early in the disease
- Prospective data with clear benefits are still lacking



Practical Considerations

- Optimal duration of proning unknown, but trials have used 16 hours/day
- Use padding for support of pressure points
- Monitor carefully for skin breakdown