Performing Compassionate Extubation: Cases, Pearls, and Pitfalls (SA512)

Eileen Rhee, MD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Lynne Morrison, MD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
Joshua Kayser, MD MPH, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
David Munson, MD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Objectives

• Identify three process questions that facilitate planning for a compassionate extubation in the ICU.

• Summarize the benefits to patients, families, and staff derived from the use of protocols or guidelines for compassionate extubation.

The removal of mechanical ventilation is a compassionate end-of-life option that requires a well-coordinated approach to appropriately prepare and ensure comfort for the patient and his or her family. This panel of dually trained intensivists and palliative care physicians will illustrate important concepts and choices through a series of case vignettes in both children and adults. We will facilitate discussion about the numerous issues that surround a planned extubation. Topics for discussion will include a historical analysis of the first recognition of the need for “terminal weaning” or “terminal extubation,” framing discussions regarding withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining therapies, determining the optimal location for extubation, the approach to patients with tracheostomies or long-term technology dependence, pharmacologic management to avoid suffering, and designing institutional protocols while recognizing a need to individualize the approach to the specific patient situation. The panelists will share clinical pearls based on their experiences and review the evidence that exists for best practices.