



# Incidence of Barotrauma in COVID-19 (+) Hospitalized Patients

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## *Disclosure of Commercial Interest*

## **Co-authorship Thoracic Imaging Textbooks**

### *Lung Cancer Screening*

Mark S Parker, Robert C. Groves, Joanna El Kusmirek, Leila Rezai Gharai, and Samira Shojaee; Thieme, New York; 2017

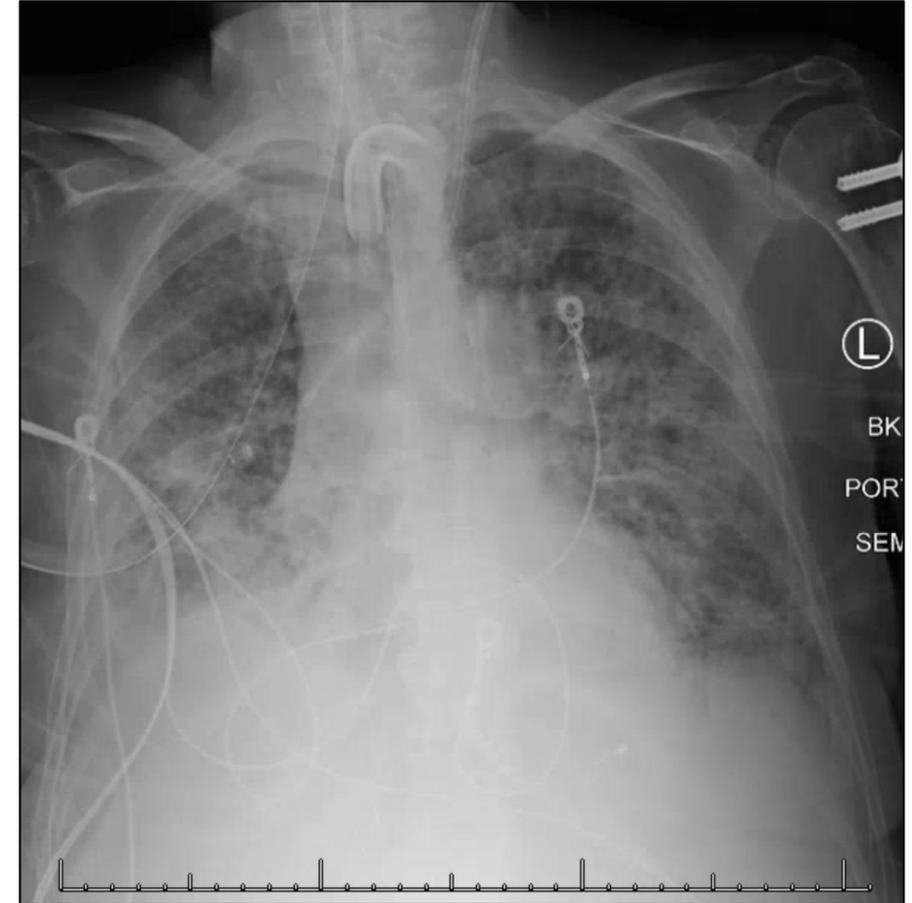
### *Chest Imaging Case Atlas, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*

Mark S Parker, Melissa L Rosado-de-Christenson, Gerald F Abbott; Thieme, New York; 2012

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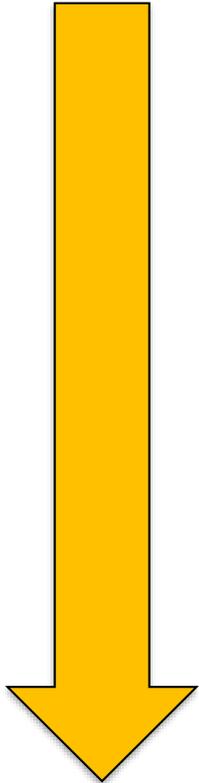
## **BACKGROUND**

- COVID-19 in the US as of Aug 2022 <sup>1</sup>:
  - ~ 90 million cases reported
  - ~ > 1 million deaths
  - ~ 1.2% case fatality rate
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)  
Noncardiogenic pulmonary edema resulting in impaired oxygenation at the alveolar capillary level <sup>2-3</sup>
- Pathophysiology of COVID-19 ARDS (CARDS) includes direct cytopathic effects, diffuse alveolar hemorrhage and hyaline membrane, cytokine storm via IL-6 and TNF <sup>3</sup>



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## ***COVID-19 Respiratory Management Ladder***



### **Low-flow O<sub>2</sub>:**

- Delivery through nasal cannula

### **High-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) <sup>4-5</sup>:**

- O<sub>2</sub> delivery system
- 100% humidified and heated oxygen
- up to 60 L/min O<sub>2</sub> through large-bore nasal cannula

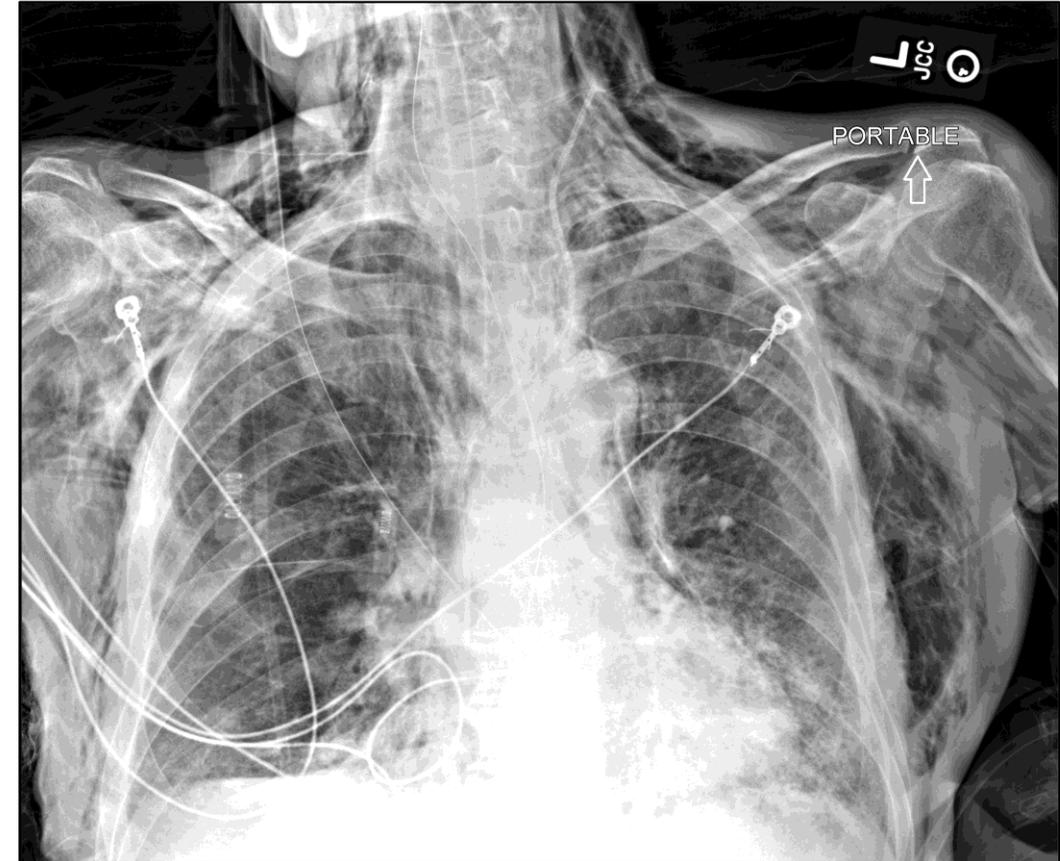
### **Invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) <sup>4-5</sup>:**

- Endotracheal intubation, highest level of respiratory / ventilatory support

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## Ventilator-Induced Lung Injury (VILI) - Barotrauma

- **Alveolar injury:** overdistension of the lungs from mismatch between ventilatory parameters and alveolar tolerance → pneumothorax, pneumomediastinum, pneumopericardium, subcutaneous air, pneumoperitoneum <sup>6</sup>
- Ventilatory settings - respiratory rate, tidal volume, positive end expiratory pressure <sup>6</sup>
- Reported barotrauma for all cause hospitalized ARDS is 4.8-11% (with ARDSnet protocol) <sup>7</sup>



# Incidence of Barotrauma in COVID-19 (+) Hospitalized Patients

## *Purpose of Our Study*

Investigate whether there is an increase in incidence of barotrauma in COVID-19 (+) patients requiring high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) or invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV).



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## *Patient Selection*

IRB approved, HIPPA compliant

Eligible patients (n = 514)  
i. COVID-19 (+) by RT-PCR\*  
ii. Hospitalization  
iii. February 2020 – August 2020

• RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction)

Exclusion (n = 8)  
i. Insufficient charting (n=5)  
ii. COVID-19 (-) throughout hospitalization (n=2)  
iii. Non-RT-PCR positive (n=1, IgG+)

Patients included in study (n = 506)  
Mean Age: 52-years  
250M : 256F

HFNC – High flow nasal cannula  
IMV – Invasive mechanical ventilation

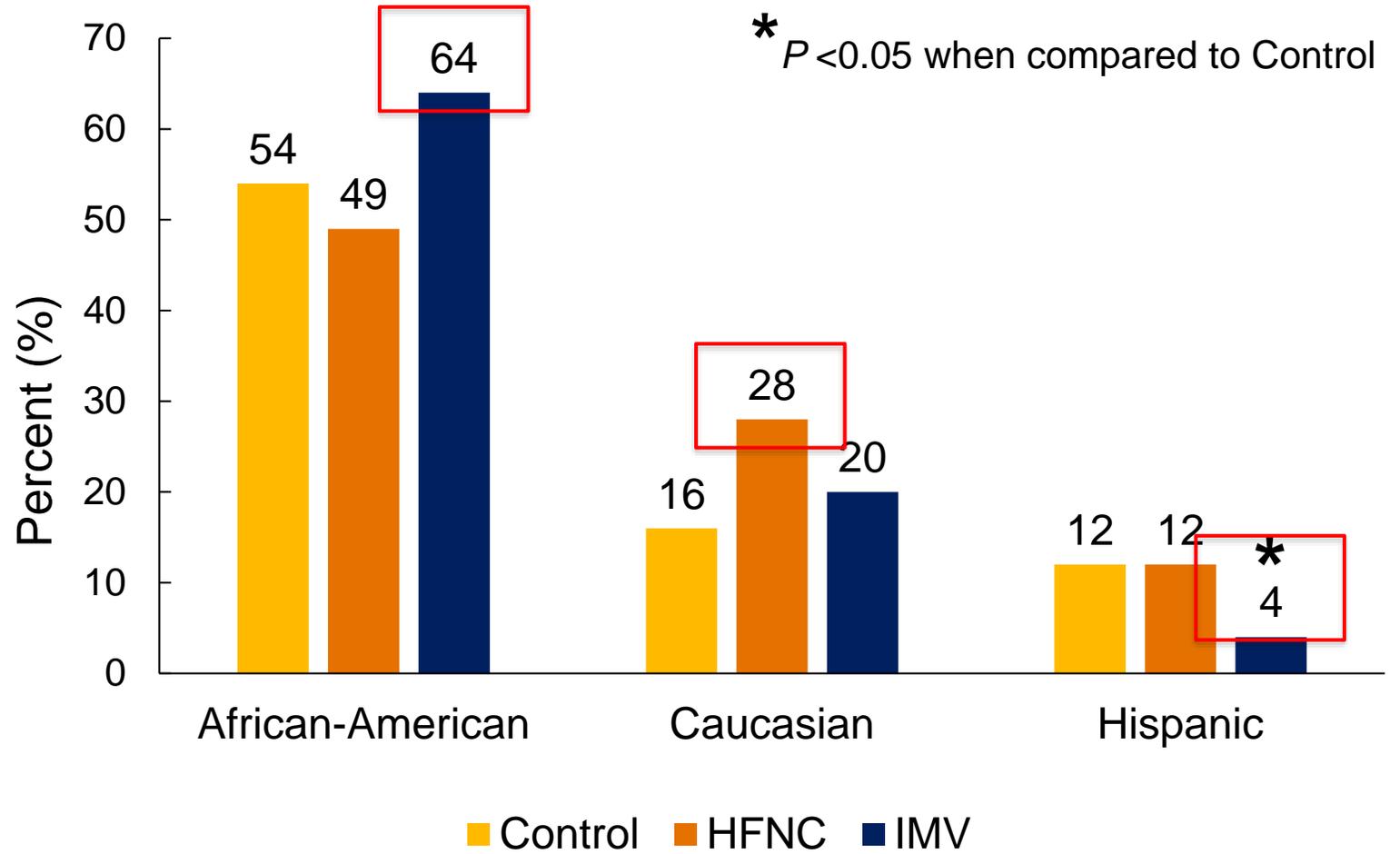
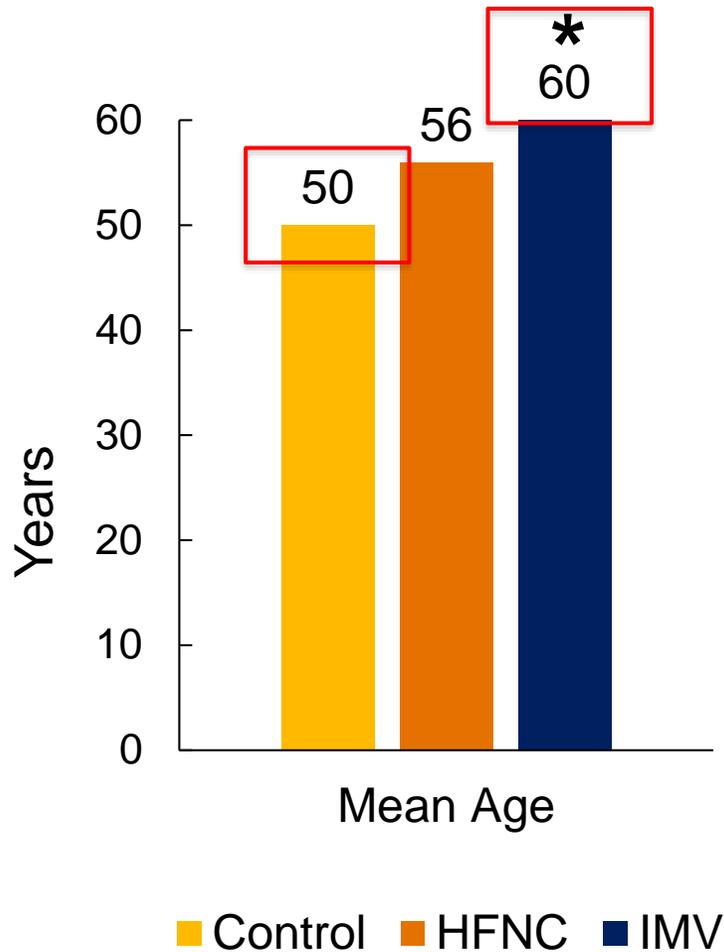
**Control** (no resp support/low-flow O<sub>2</sub>)  
n = 383

**HFNC-only**  
n = 43

**IMV**  
n = 80

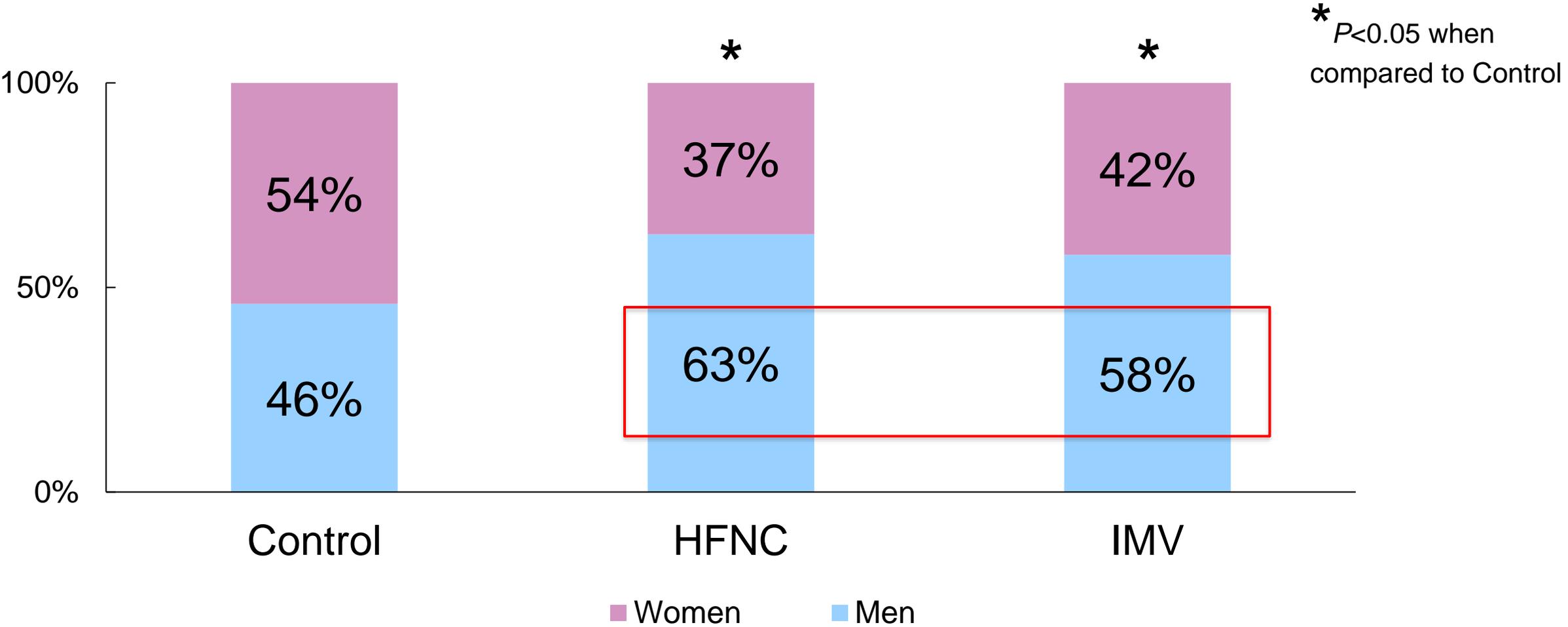
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## **RESULTS - Age & Race Distribution**



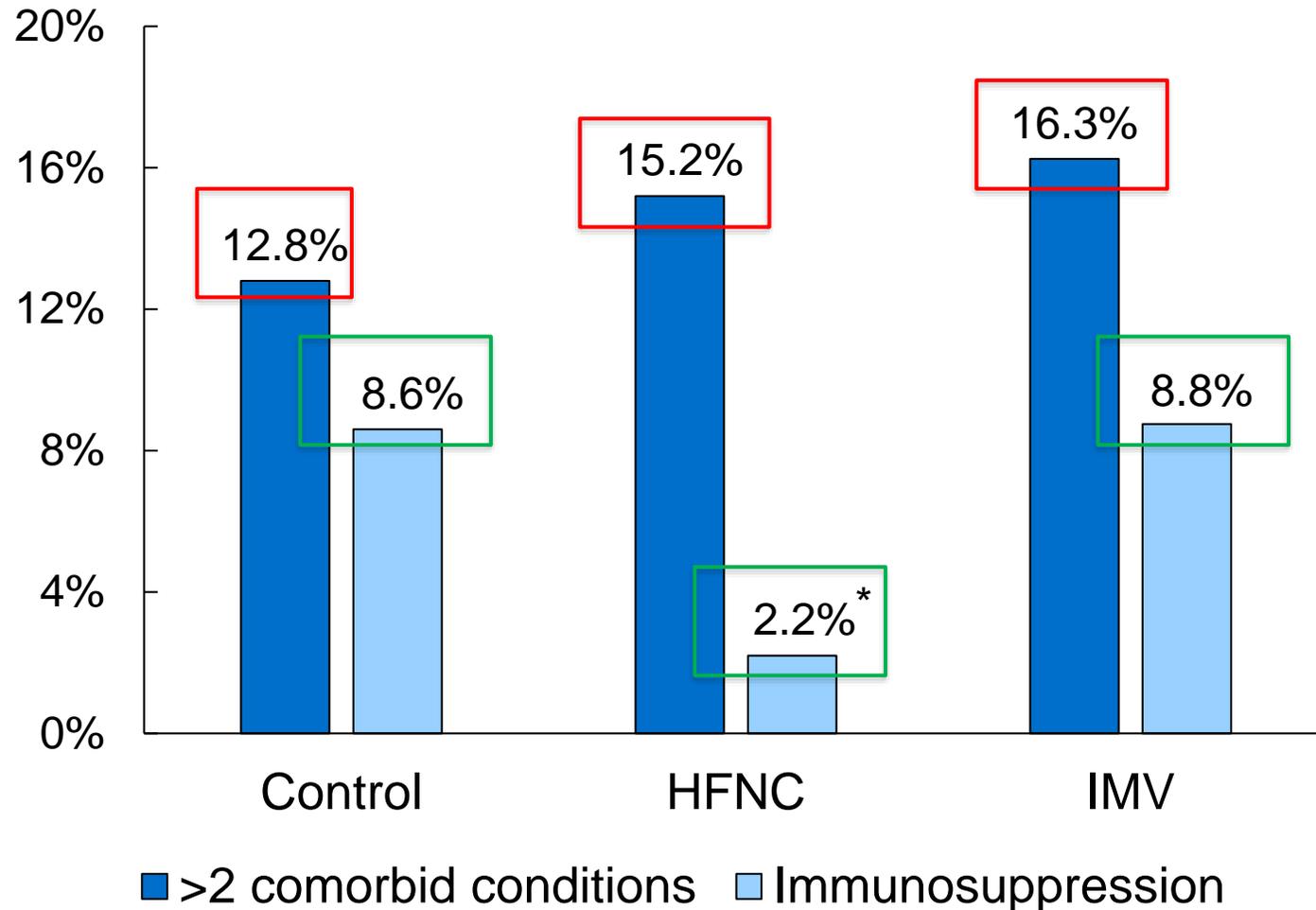
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## **RESULTS - Gender Distribution**



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## **RESULTS – Comorbidities and Immunosuppression**



Common comorbidities among all patients:

- **Hypertension**
- **Diabetes mellitus type 2**
- **Obesity**
- Hyperlipidemia
- Chronic kidney disease
- Coronary artery disease/Stroke

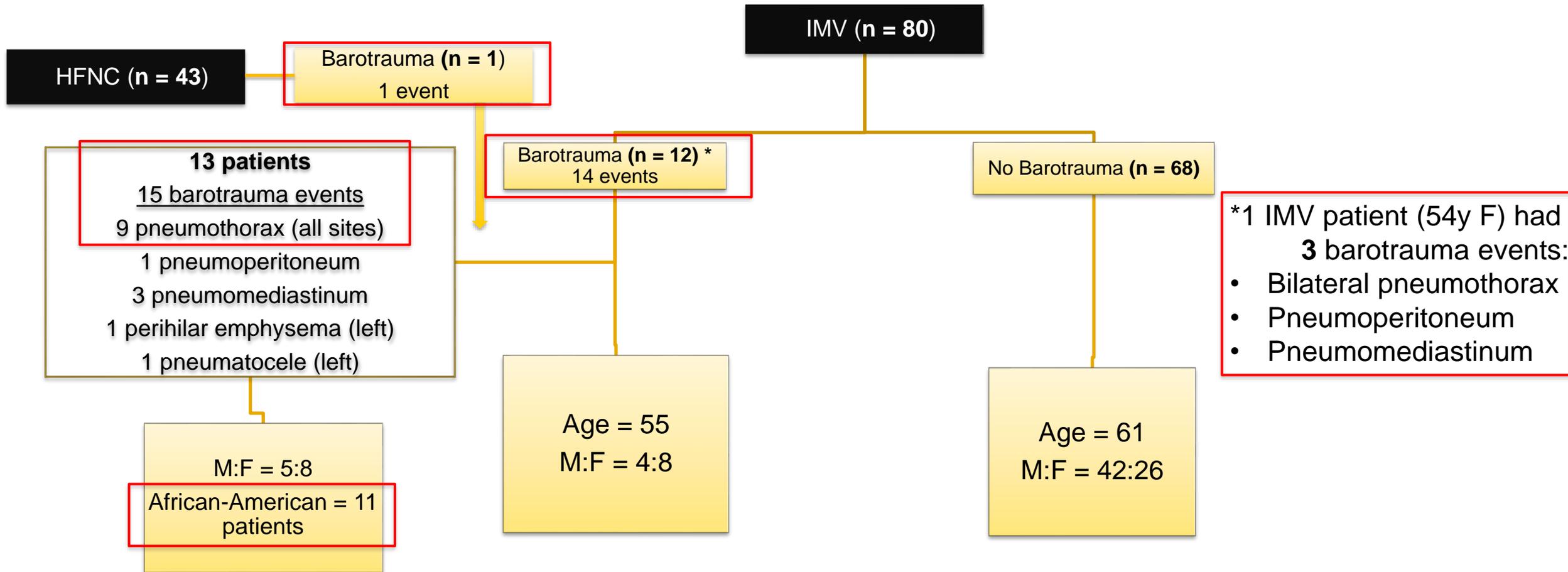
Immunosuppression:

- Medication-induced
- Pathological (ie. leukemia)

\* Only 1 immunosuppressed HFNC PATIENT

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## **RESULTS - Barotrauma Events**



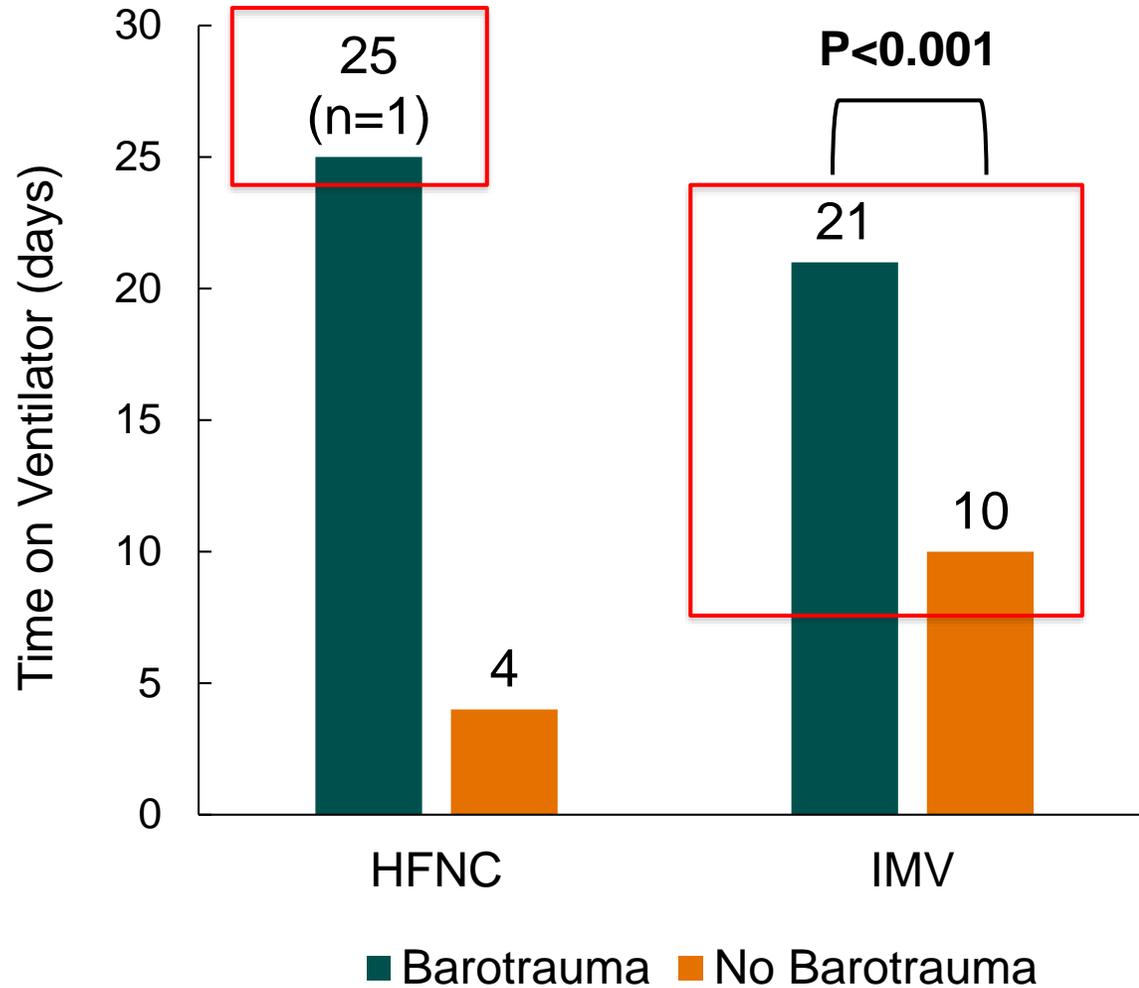
\*1 IMV patient (54y F) had 3 barotrauma events:

- Bilateral pneumothorax
- Pneumoperitoneum
- Pneumomediastinum

n = # of patients

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## **RESULTS – Barotrauma, Ventilator Settings and Time**



	IMV group - Barotrauma	IMV group - No Barotrauma
PEEP (cm H <sub>2</sub> O)	10	11
Tidal Volume (mL)	465	434
<b>Respiratory Rate</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>

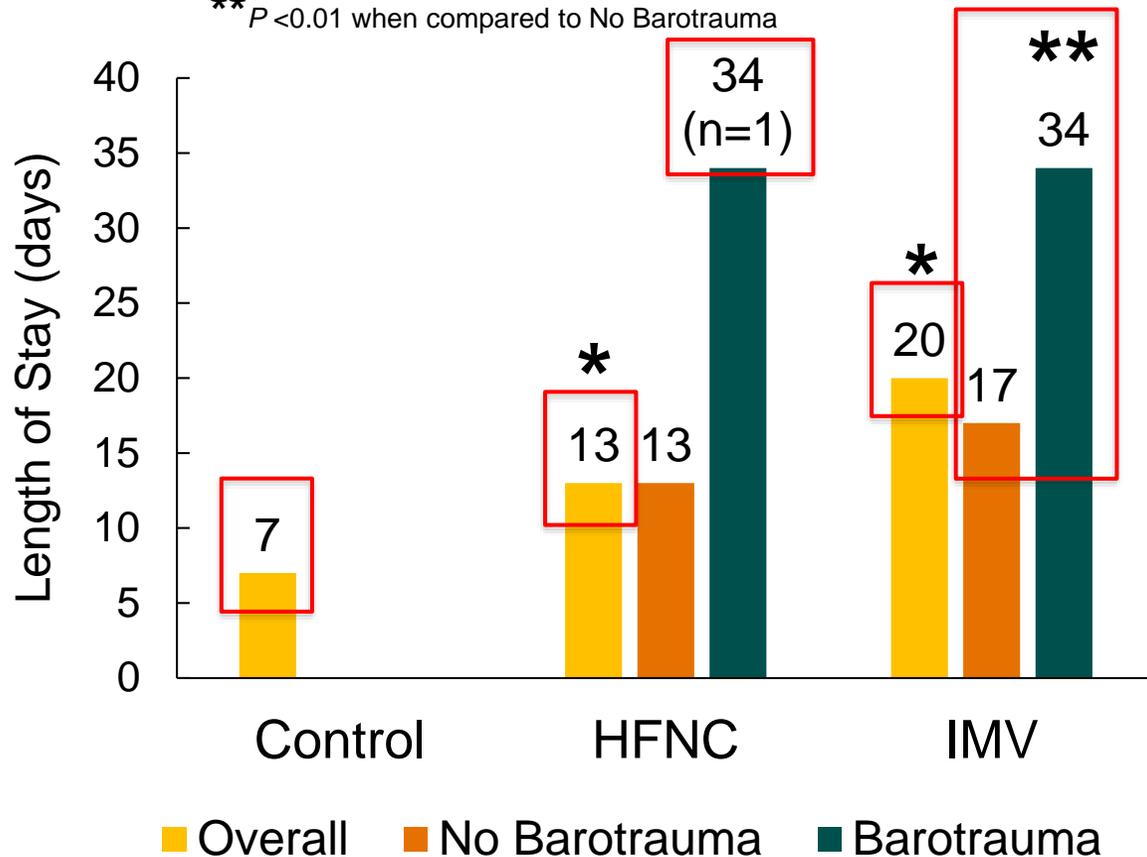
**P < 0.05**

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## RESULTS - Barotrauma and Length of Stay (LOS)

\*  $P < 0.0001$  when compared to control

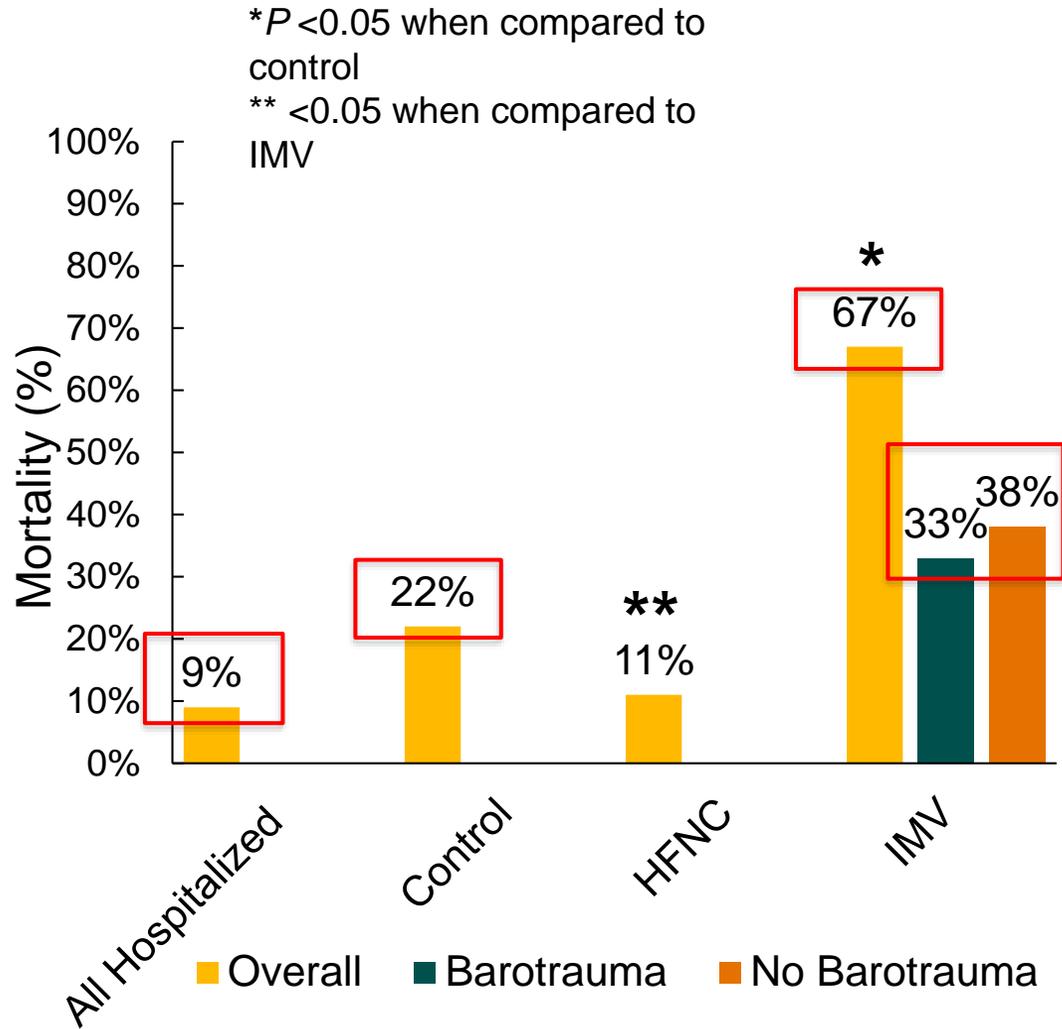
\*\*  $P < 0.01$  when compared to No Barotrauma



IMV patient	Barotrauma LOS (days)	No Barotrauma LOS (days)	
African-American	31	17	$P < 0.01$
Men	46	16	$P < 0.001$
Women	27	19	

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## **RESULTS - Mortality for IMV & HFNC**



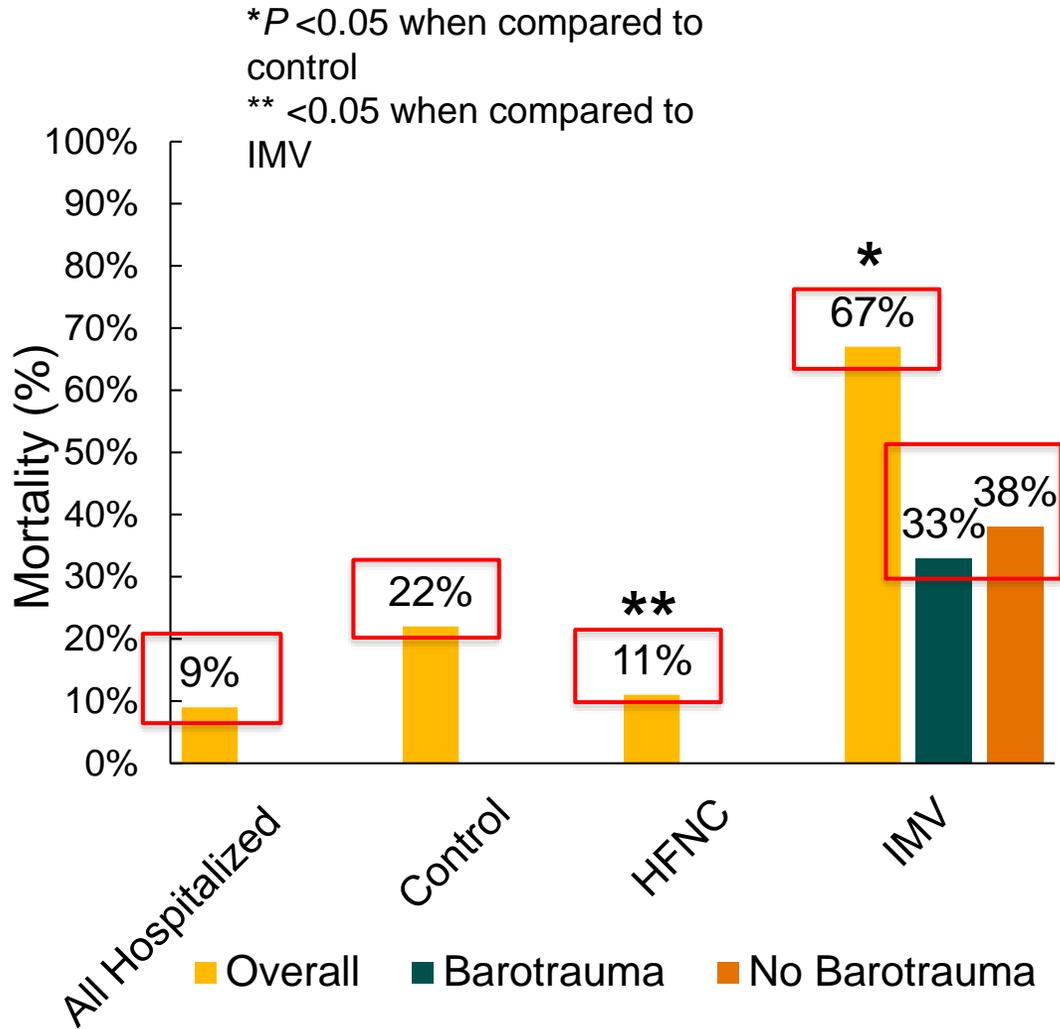
9% (45/506) died during their COVID-19 hospitalization

- 62% (28/45) were Men
- 64% (29/45) were African American
- 20% (9/45) were Caucasian

IMV GROUP	Total Mortality (n=30)	Barotrauma Mortality (n=4)	No-Barotrauma Mortality (n=26)
African-American	19/30 (63%)	3/4 (75%)	16/26 (58%)
Men	21/30 (70%)	2/4 (50%)	19/26 (73%)
Female	9/30 (30%)	2/4 (50%)	7/26 (27%)
	<b>P&lt;0.05</b>		<b>P&lt;0.05</b>

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## **RESULTS - Mortality for IMV & HFNC**



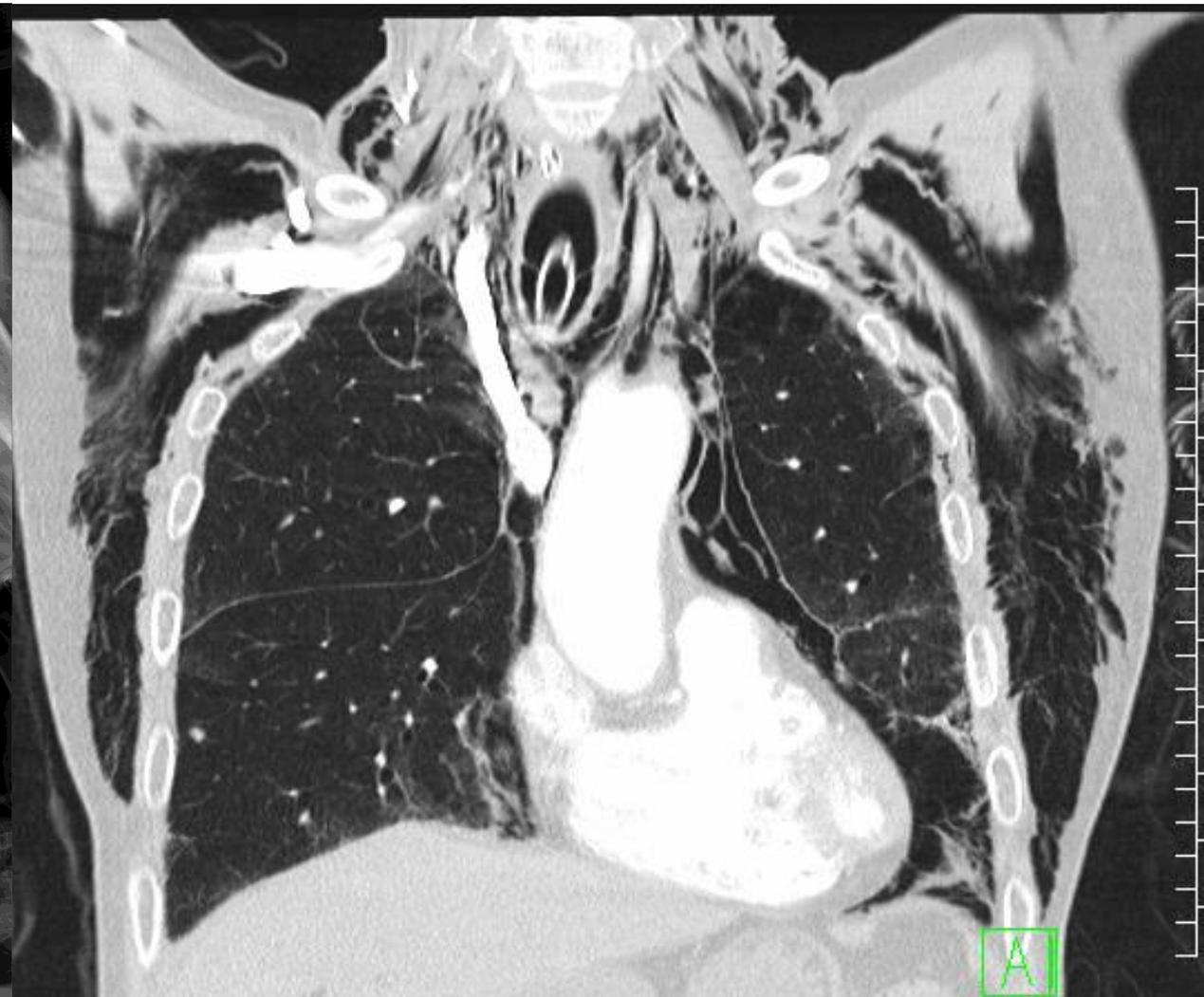
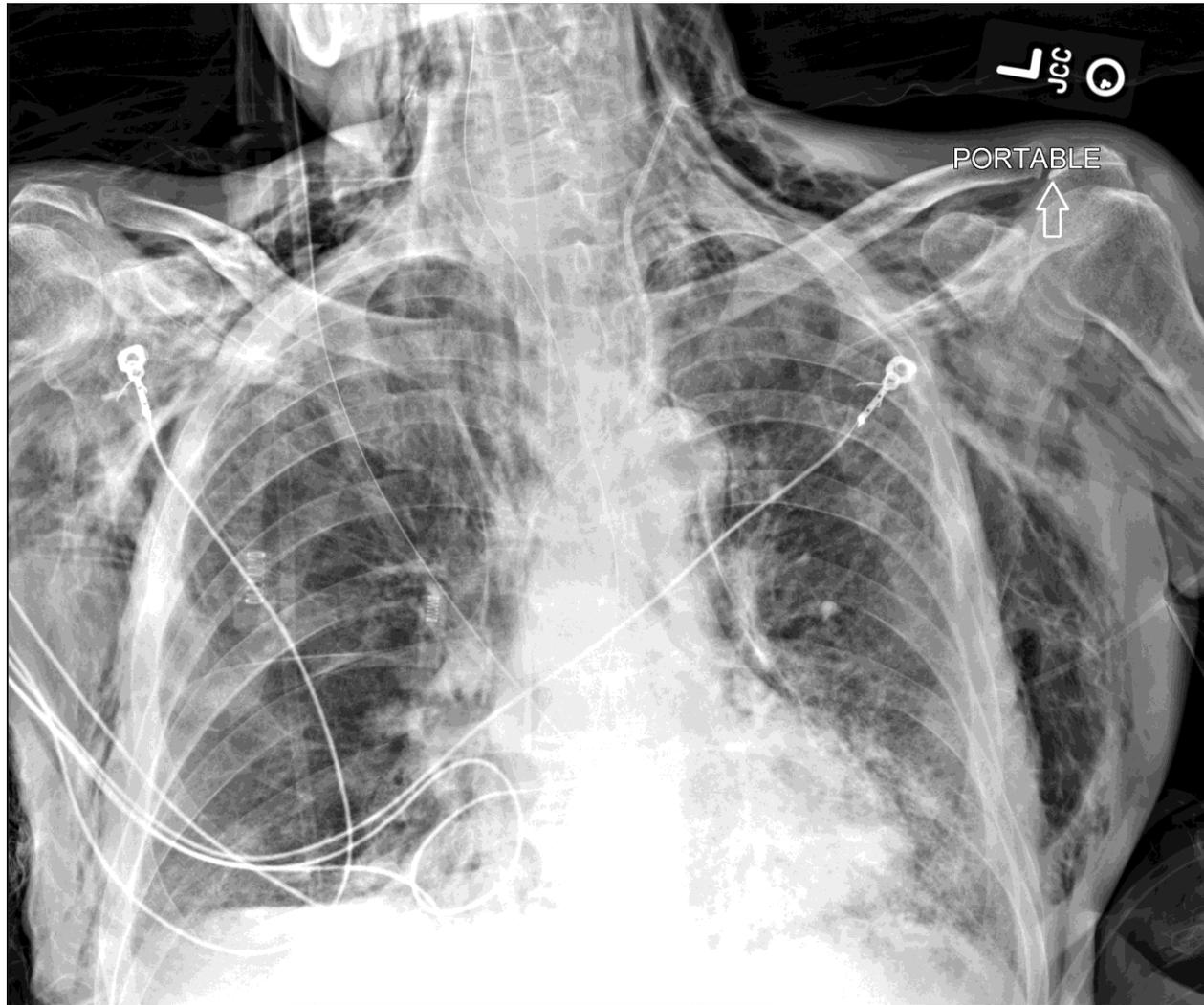
9% (45/506) died during their COVID-19 hospitalization

HFNC group	Total Mortality
African-American	3/5 (60%)
Men	1/5 (20%)
Female	4/5 (80%)

**P < 0.05**

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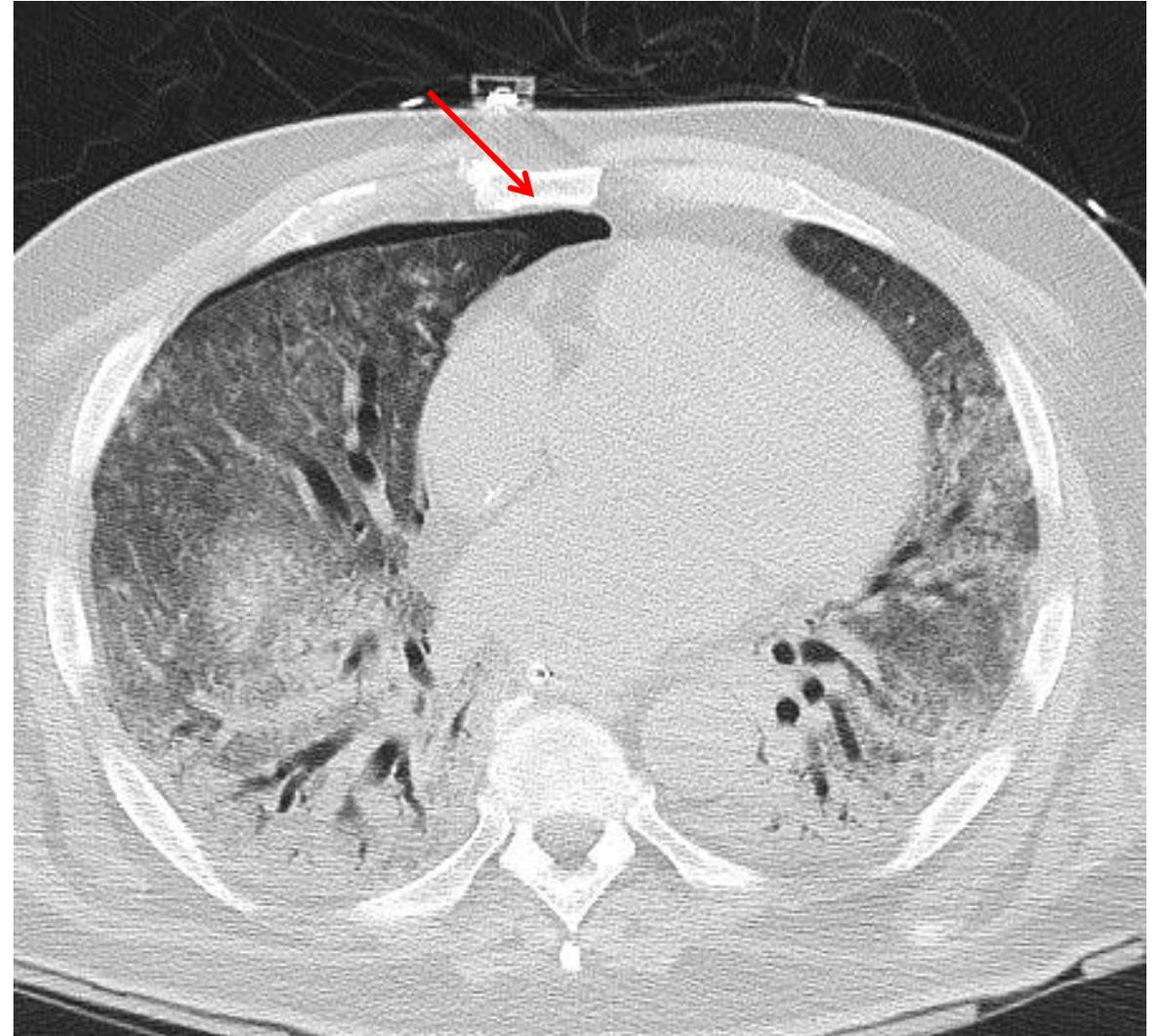
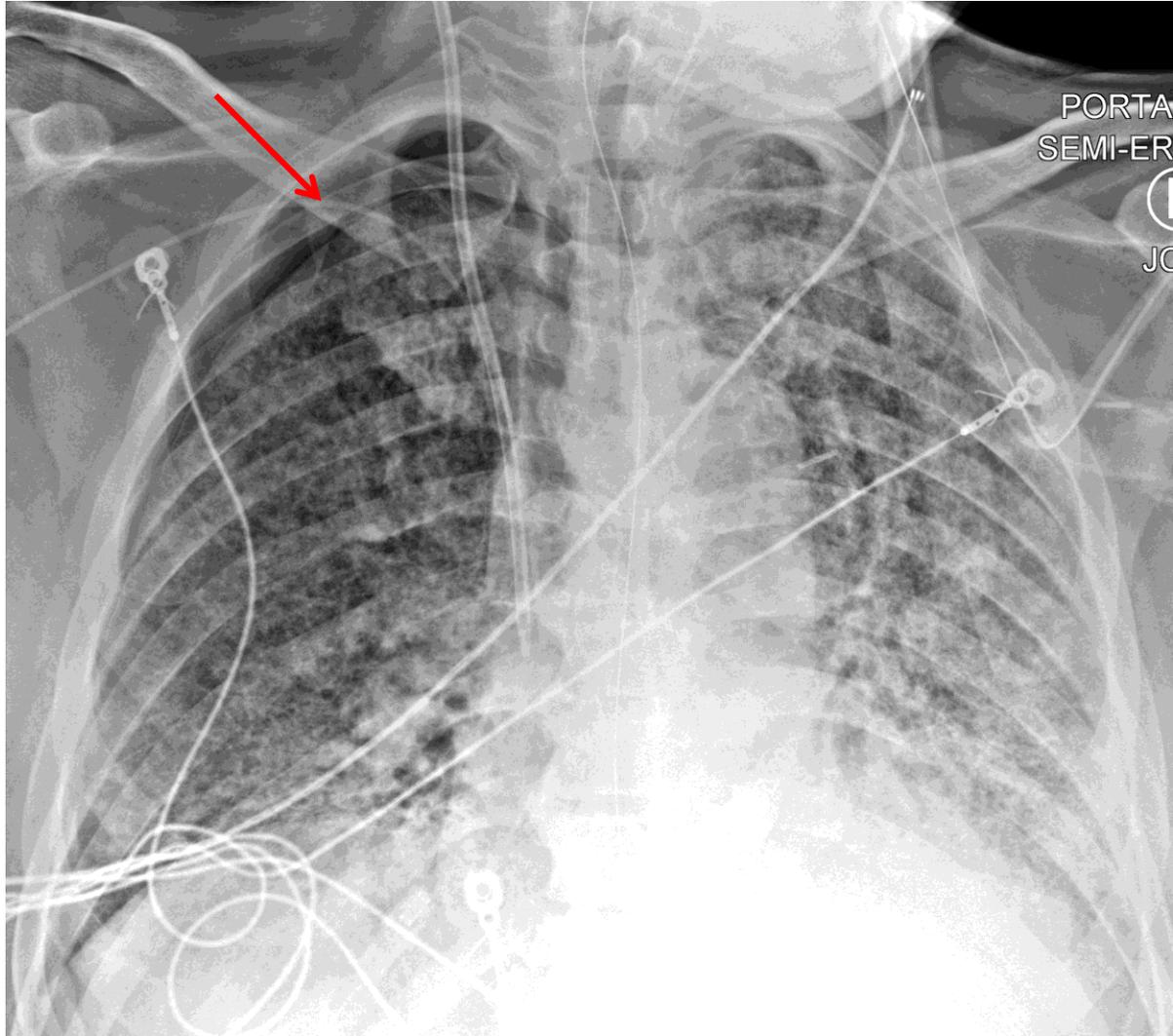
## ***Case Example 1***



78-year-old male on IMV

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## ***Case Example 2***



57-year-old male on IMV

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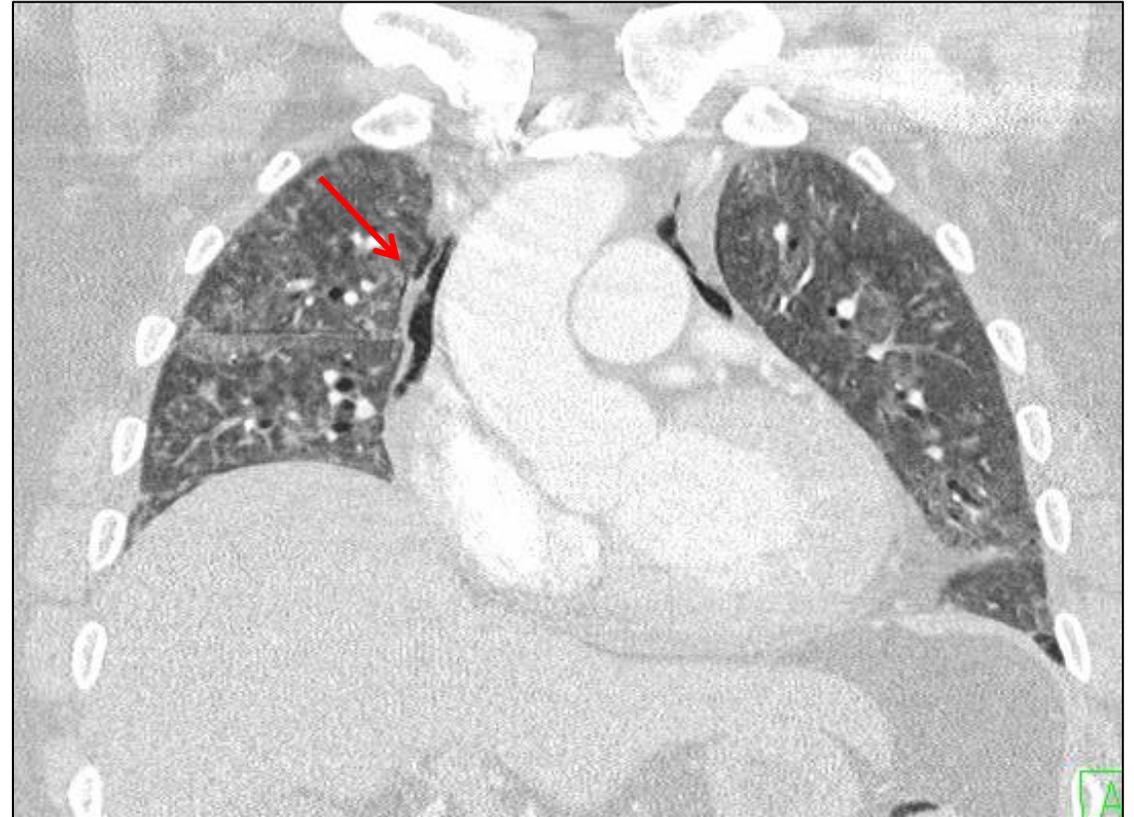
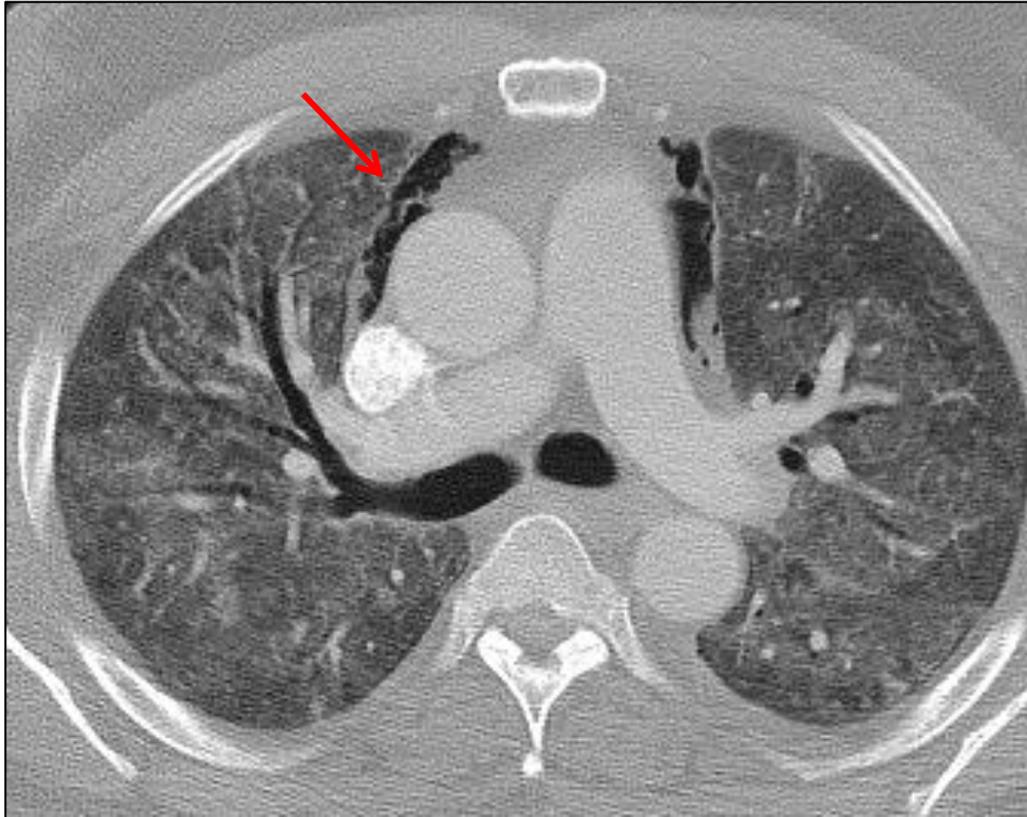
## ***Case Example 3***



54-year-old female with on IMV

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## ***Case Example 4***



49-year-old male on HFNC

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## ***Discussion – Barotrauma incidence***

- IMV CARDS barotrauma:
  - McGuinness et al 2020 <sup>7</sup>: 15% (89/601 patients)
  - Rajdev et al. 2021 <sup>6</sup>: 17.3% (21/121 patients)
  - Steinberger et al 2022<sup>8</sup>: 12% (43/363 patients)
  - **Our study**, comparable at 15% (12/80 patients)
- Non-COVID ARDS barotrauma incidence (4.8-11%) <sup>7</sup>
- HFNC barotrauma:
  - Rajdev et al <sup>6</sup>: 4.7-8%
  - **Our study**, 1 case in 43 patients (2%)

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## ***Discussion – Barotrauma types***

- Shrestha et al. 2021 <sup>9</sup>: Pneumothorax 72% and Pneumomediastinum 52%
- Belletti et al. 2021 <sup>10</sup>: Pneumothorax 78.5% (chest tube needed in 18 patients; 1 required emergent thoracostomy)
- Steinberger et al 2021 <sup>8</sup>: Pneumothorax 40%
- **Our study:** Pneumothorax 60% and Pneumomediastinum 20%

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## ***Discussion – Barotrauma and Mortality and Length of Stay***

- Shrestha et al, meta-analysis of 13 studies <sup>9</sup>: average mortality of 58.7% for hospitalized patients with COVID barotrauma vs 40.6% mortality without barotrauma.
- **Our study**, 33% mortality with barotrauma vs 38% mortality without barotrauma.
- McGuinness and Belletti et al <sup>7,10</sup>: Longer length of hospitalization and ICU admission associated with COVID-19 barotrauma
- **Our study**, IMV barotrauma doubled length of hospital stay particularly in African Americans and men
- Men in the IMV group overall and African Americans in the IMV barotrauma group particularly face increased mortality.

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## ***Conclusion***

Increased barotrauma incidence and mortality associated with IMV management of CARDS should be taken into strong consideration particularly with males, African-Americans, and in the setting of prolonged ventilation with high respiratory rate ventilator settings.

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