

An Introduction to the Third Annual Symposium on Respiratory Failure

The rapid development of knowledge, techniques, and equipment in the area of respiratory care has both greatly improved and complicated the care of the patient with respiratory failure. Due to this progress, the physician who has an intermittent opportunity to care for these types of patients is at a major disadvantage. Consequently, over the past three years the Departments of Medicine of the Schools of Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia and University of Virginia have held an annual symposium to provide the practicing physicians in the state with the opportunity to review the pathophysiology of respiratory failure and become aware of the more modern techniques, approaches, and available equipment for the management of acute respiratory failure. This publication will reach a considerably wider audience than had the opportunity to attend the symposium, and we hope it will extend our program to many other concerned physicians.

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