

Predictors of prolonged weaning among mechanically ventilated patients in respiratory intensive care unit

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Abstract

Background: Weaning is an essential part of critically ill patients who are on mechanical ventilation. Weaning was classified into simple, difficult and prolonged. Some patients are easily weaned off and others require a more prolonged duration.

Methods: 52 patients admitted to the respiratory intensive care unit (RICU) and requiring mechanical ventilation were successfully weaned and classified into simple (20, 37.7%), difficult (20, 37.7%) and prolonged weaning (13, 24.5%). Factors associated with prolonged weaning and outcomes were determined.

Results: A total of 53 intubated patients admitted to the RICU (30 (56.6%) males), aged (59.8±14.3) years were included. The following factors are associated with prolonged weaning: ↓ed serum mg++(P< 0.0001) & CA++(P< 0.0001) , ↑ed BUN level (P= 0.001), ↑ed PaCO₂ (P0.04), ↓ed SaO₂% (P0.0001), presence of ≥2 co-morbidities (P0.02), prolonged duration of MV (P<0.0001) and long ICU stay (P<0.0001). There was no significant relation between prolonged weaning and Modes of MV (p0.2), also A-a gradient ↓ed in patients with prolonged weaning but not significant (P=0.5). In multivariate analysis, prolonged weaning was independently associated with serum Mg+ (OR 0.03, 95% CI 0.003–0.24, P <0.001), and SaO₂% change (the beginning- the end of weaning trial) OR 0.91, 95% CI 0.83–0.99, P < 0.04). Regarding baseline serum Mg++ & tidal volume, the cutoff point for predicting prolonged weaning was (≤1.5 .mmol/l & ≤450 ml) with, sensitivity, specificity, PPV NPV and accuracy (61.5%, 92.5%, 72.7%, 88.1%, 77%, P <0.0001 and 77%, 55%, 36% 88%, 66%, P < 0.02, respectively). The cutoff points of PaCO₂ ≥49 mmHg & SaO₂% ≤91 at first weaning trial & SaO₂% change ≥5 (between the beginning and the end of a weaning trial) were strongly associated with prolonged weaning (P <0.02, < 0.0001 & <0.003, respectively). Prolonged weaning was significantly associated with high mortality rate (P< 0.0001).

Conclusions: Several factors were associated with prolonged weaning, however, when subjected to multivariate analysis, only serum Mg++ & SaO₂% change significantly predict prolonged weaning. Prolonged weaning is associated with increased ICU stay and higher rate of tracheostomy.

Clinical Implications: Prolonged mechanical ventilation is associated with higher rate of reintubation, tracheostomy rate, longer ICU stay and higher mortality. Identification and correction of factors associated with prolonged weaning may change the outcome and prognosis of these patients. In addition, early intervention such as tracheostomy is likely to benefit these patients

Key words: Mechanical ventilation, Intensive care unit, Respiratory intensive care unit, prolonged weaning

Introduction:

The process of weaning implies two separate, the withdrawal of ventilator assistance and extubation, its complete success is achieved when the patient is able to maintain spontaneous unassisted breathing after extubation. Weaning failure may occur when the

patient fails to breathe soon after withdrawal of the ventilator support, as defined by the incapacity to successfully pass the SBT.¹

An International Consensus Conference (ICC) on weaning from MV¹ proposed a new classification

based on the difficulty and duration of the weaning period: simple, difficult, and prolonged weaning. Although it is considered that prolonged weaning is associated with the lowest survival.²

³The identification of these factors could be important in influencing the survival of ventilated patients in whom weaning has been initiated.

Prolonged weaning is mainly caused by an imbalance of ventilator demand and ventilatory capacity, which leads to hypercapnic ventilatory insufficiency due to overloaded or weak respiratory muscles, i. e. the respiratory pump. Prolonged weaning is associated with a broad spectrum of complications (e. g. early and late damage of the airways, nosocomial infections) depending on the duration of MV. Therefore strategies are needed to shorten duration of invasive mechanical ventilation and the weaning process.⁴

The prolonged weaning is associated with increased mortality and morbidity.⁵ A large proportion of patients admitted to RICUs have chronic respiratory disorders, which are associated with a longer duration of weaning.⁶ In fact, chronic respiratory failure is more frequent in patients with prolonged weaning.⁷

The aim of the work: is to assess predictors of prolonged weaning & survival in RICU.

Patients and methods:

It was a prospective observational study included fifty three (53) patients who were admitted to the RICU and required invasive MV for more than 24 hours and they were ready to be weaned. The study was conducted in RICU of Chest Department, ELkasr ALainy Hospital, in the period from July 2016 to June 2017 after the approval of the ethical committee and written consents were taken from the patients or relatives.

The patients with accidental extubation and patients with previous decision to

limit life-sustaining treatments were excluded from the study.

All patients were subjected to full clinical evaluation including thorough history taking from patients or their relatives and clinical examination, chest radiograph, electrocardiogram, abdominal ultrasonography, echocardiography (if indicated), computed tomography (if indicated), complete blood count and arterial blood gases analysis: including (PH, PaO₂, PaCO₂, SaO₂%, HCO₃), the samples were analyzed using automated blood gases analyzer (GEM Premier 3000: Instrumentation Laboratory Inc. Lexington MA 02421, USA)., blood chemistry was done, including: renal function tests, liver function tests and serum electrolytes (Na⁺, K⁺, Ca⁺⁺, Mg⁺⁺)(Roche/Hitachi cobas c 311 system, Germany).

Weaning from mechanical ventilation:

Weaning from MV was initiated when the patients presented with following:

clinical criteria: resolution or improvement of the cause of respiratory failure, suppressed sedation or neuromuscular blockade, satisfactory level of consciousness (Glasgow scale ≥ 8), absence of fever ($T \leq 37.5$ °C), hemodynamic stability at minimal doses or in the absence of vasoactive drugs, absence of decompensated coronary insufficiency or arrhythmia with hemodynamic reperfusion.

Gasometric criteria: PaO₂ ≥ 60 mm Hg with FIO₂ ≤ 0.4 , PaCO₂ within normal (35-45 mmHg) or increase ≤ 10 mmHg, PH within normal (7.33-7.44) or decrease ≤ 0.1 .⁸

Ventilator parameters: Peak airway pressure of < 45 cmH₂O, plateau pressure of < 30 cmH₂O, static lung compliance of > 33 mL/cm H₂O, dynamic lung compliance of > 22 mL/cm H₂O, the rapid shallow breathing index (RSBI) was less than

105 on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) of 5 cmH₂O for 3 minutes, inspiratory oxygen fraction (FiO₂) <0.4, PEEP ≤ 5 - 8 cm H₂O.⁹

Weaning method:

A SBT was performed with a T-piece. Prior to the SBT, assisted-control or pressure-support ventilation was used depending on the patient's preference or tolerance. **SBT failure** was defined as the presence and persistence of one of the following criteria (1) respiratory frequency >35 cycle/min; (2) arterial O₂ saturation by pulse oximetry <90% at FIO₂ ≥ 0.4; (3) heart rate >140 or <50 b/min, or increases or decreases of more than 20% compared to MV; (4) systolic blood pressure >180 or <70 mmHg, or increases or decreases of more than 20% compared to MV; (5) decreased consciousness, agitation or diaphoresis and (6) thoracic-abdominal paradoxical movement.¹⁰

Patients were classified as simple, difficult and prolonged weaning. **simple**

weaning is defined as patients who proceed from initiation of weaning to successful extubation on the first attempt without difficulty, **difficult weaning** is defined as patients who fail initial weaning and require up to three SBTs or as long as 7 days from the first SBT to achieve successful weaning and **prolonged weaning** is defined as patients who require more than three SBTs or >7 days of weaning process after the first SBT.¹²

Statistical analysis

Data was analyzed using STATA intercooled version 12.1. Quantitative data was represented as mean, standard deviation, median and range. Data was analyzed using student t-test to compare means of two groups and ANOVA with post-hoc for comparison of the means of three groups or more. Qualitative data was presented as number and percentage and compared using either Chi square test or fisher exact test. P value was considered significant if it was less than 0.05.

Results:

Table (1): Relationship between prolonged weaning and demographic data of the studied population

Variable	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
Age (year)	60.08±12.65	59±12.65	0.82
Gender			0.82
Females	17 (42.5%)	6 (46.15%)	
Males	23 (57.5%)	7 (53.85%)	
Smoking status			0.92
Non-smoker	19 (47.5%)	7 (53.85%)	
Smoker	10 (25%)	3 (23.85%)	
Ex-smoker	11 (27.5%)	3 (23.1%)	
Smoking index			0.15
Mild	1 (9.09%)	0	
Moderate	4 (36.36%)	0	
Heavy	16 (100%)	6 (54.55%)	
History of previous ICU admission			0.43
No	33 (82.5%)	9 (69.23%)	
Yes	7 (17.5%)	4 (30.77%)	

Data are presented as mean ± SD (unless otherwise indicated) ICU: Intensive care unit

Table (1) shows that there was no statistically significant relationship between prolonged weaning and demographic data as regard age (P= 0.82), gender (P= 0.82), smoking (status & index) (P= 0.92& 0.15 respectively) and history of previous ICU admission (P= 0.43).

Table (2): Relationship between prolonged weaning and co-morbidities

Co-morbidities	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
Cardiac disease	15 (37.5%)	7 (53.85%)	0.3
DM	13 (32.5%)	7 (53.85%)	0.2

Hypertension	13 (32.5%)	7 (53.85%)	0.2
Neurological disease	7 (17.5%)	5 (38.48%)	0.67
Thyroid disease	3 (7.5%)	0	0.57
Hepatic disease	2 (5%)	0	1.00
Rheumatological disease	2 (5%)	0	1.00
Renal disease	1 (2.5%)	0	1.00

DM: Diabetes mellitus

Table (2) shows that there was no statistically significant relationship between prolonged weaning and co-morbidities.

Table (3): Relationship between prolonged weaning and the causes of respiratory failure

Cause of respiratory failure	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
COPD	17 (61.54%)	5 (38.46%)	0.3
Pneumonia	13 (32.5%)	3 (23.08%)	0.52
IPF	4 (10%)	2 (15.38%)	0.63
Overlap syndrome	3 (7.5%)	2 (15.38%)	0.59
Bronchiectasis	2 (5%)	3 (23.08%)	0.09
OH syndrome	2 (5%)	0	0.59
Malignancy	4 (10%)	1 (7.69%)	1.00
Kyphoscoliosis	1 (2.5%)	0	1.00

COPD:Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease IPF:Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis OH syndrome: Obesity hypoventilation syndrome

Table (3) shows that there was no statistically significant relationship between prolonged weaning and the cause of respiratory failure as regard COPD (P= 0.3), pneumonia (P= 0.52), IPF (P= 0.63), overlap syndrome (P= 0.59), bronchiectasis (P= 0.09), OH syndrome (P= 0.59), malignancy (P= 1.00) and kyphoscoliosis (P= 1.00).

Table (4): Relationship between prolonged weaning and laboratory investigation

Variable	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
WBCs (L)	13.7±5.52	16.51±4.37	0.08
Haemoglobin (gm/dL)	11.85±2.76	11.02±1.53	0.31
PLTs(L)	231.45±94.61	210.31±72.62	0.48
ALT (IU/L)	49.05±65.56	20.77±10.03	0.0001
AST (IU/L)	67.43±131.33	22.23±8.77	0.0005
Creatinine (mg/dL)	1.28±1.35	1.06±0.36	0.54
Albumin (gm/L)	2.76±0.64	2.37±0.75	0.12
Urea (mg/dL)	26.98±21.81	46.55±21.69	0.001
Serum Na + (mmol/L)	138.58±5.48	140.46±6.70	0.38
Serum Mg++(mg /dL)	2.06±0.38	1.43±0.47	<0.0001
Serum K+(mmol/L)	4.18±0.76	3.93±0.78	0.33
Serum Ca ++(mg /dL)	8.48±0.81	6.93±1.49	<0.0001

Data are presented as mean ± SD (unless otherwise indicated)

WBCs: White blood cells PLTs: Platelets ALT: Alanine transaminase AST: Aspartate transaminase
Na+: Sodium Mg++:Magnesium K+: Potassium Ca++: Calcium

Table (4) shows that there was statistically significant relationship between prolonged weaning and ALT (P= 0.0001), AST (P= 0.0005), elevated urea level (P= 0.001), low serum Mg++ level (P < 0.0001) and low serum Ca++level (P < 0.0001). Patients with low serum albumin level were experienced prolonged weaning but statically not significant (P= 0.12).

Table (5): Relationship between prolonged weaning and arterial blood gases parameters at the beginning of the first weaning trial

Arterial blood gases	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
PH	7.43±0.06	7.42±0.11	0.73

PaCO ₂ (mmHg)	45.23±11.33	53.93±13.16	0.04
PaO ₂ (mmHg)	76.28±20.16	70.38±14.13	0.41
SaO ₂ %	92.18±5.65	81.31±8.75	<0.0001
HCO ₃ (mEq/l)	34.51±7.35	33.82±6.75	0.76
P/F	191.21±52.25	172.15±37.1	0.23
Shunt (%)	11.67±3.05	11.78±1.67	0.91
(A-a) O ₂ gradient (mmHg)	158.34±46.22	150.66±22.7	0.57

Data are presented as mean ± SD (unless otherwise indicated)

PaCO₂: Partial arterial tension of carbon dioxide PaO₂: Partial arterial tension of oxygen SaO₂%: Oxygen saturation

Table (5) shows the relationship between prolonged weaning and arterial blood gases parameters at the beginning of the first weaning trial: the mean level of PaCO₂ was significantly higher in patients with prolonged weaning in comparison to other weaning outcomes (P= 0.04).The mean level of SaO₂% was significantly low in patients with prolonged weaning in comparison to other weaning outcomes (P: <0.0001).

Table (6): Relationship between prolonged weaning and change of arterial blood gases between the beginning and the end of weaning trial

Blood gases parameters	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
PH change	0.14±0.12	0.17±0.13	0.44
PaCO ₂ change	[-15.33] ± 22.73	[-18.69] ± 27.3	1.00
PaO ₂ change	19.5±28.70	17.85±21.49	0.99
SaO ₂ % change	9.58±13.34	[-1.23] ± 9.64	0.006
HCO ₃ -	3.79±6.07	6.53±5.97	0.18

Data are presented as mean ± SD (unless otherwise indicated)

Table (6) shows the relationship between prolonged weaning and change of arterial blood gases between the beginning and the end of weaning trial; there was a significant relationship between prolonged weaning and deterioration of SaO₂% in the form of decrease of mean level of SaO₂% (P= 0.006).

Table (7): Relationship between prolonged weaning and duration of MV&ICU stay, complications and outcomes

Variable	Prolonged weaning		P value
	No	Yes	
Duration of MV(day)	8.28±5.22	18.38±4.38	0.0001
Duration in ICU(day)	13.58±6.81	22.69±3.17	0.0001
Complications			
No	33 (82.5%)	11 (84.62%)	0.81
VAP	2 (5%)	2 (15.38%)	
CVS	1 (2.5%)	0	
HAP	1 (2.5%)	0	
Hematemesis	1 (2.5%)	0	
Shock	1 (2.5%)	0	
Tracheoesophageal fistula	1 (2.5%)	0	
Death			
Yes	12 (30%)	7 (53.85%)	
No	28 (70%)	6 (46.15%)	

Data are presented as mean ± SD (unless otherwise indicated)

MV: Mechanical ventilation ICU: Intensive care unit VAP: Ventilator associated pneumonia HAP: Hospital associated pneumonia CVS: Cerebrovascular stroke

Table (7) shows that the duration of MV and ICU stay were significantly longer in patients with prolonged weaning than other weaning outcomes (P= 0.0001 for both).

Table (8): Multivariate analysis of factors predicting prolonged weaning

Variable	Odds ratio (95% confidence interval)	P value
Two or more co-morbidity compared to none or	5.21 (0.29-93.69)	0.26

one		
WBCs ($\times 10^3$ cells/mcL)	1.05 (0.77-1.45)	0.73
ALT (IU/L)	0.91 (0.81-1.03)	0.13
AST (IU/L)	0.86 (0.72-1.02)	0.1
Mg ⁺⁺ (mg/dL)	0.04 (0.004-0.47)	0.01
Ca ⁺⁺ (mg/dL)	0.32 (0.08-1.19)	0.09
Tidal volume (baseline)	1.02 (0.98-1.06)	0.35
PaCO ₂ (first weaning trial)	1.01 (0.90-1.14)	0.8
SaO ₂ % (first weaning trial)	1.03 (0.67-1.57)	0.89
SaO ₂ % change	0.68 (0.54-1.04)	0.03
Urea (mg/dL)	0.99 (0.96-1.04)	0.91
Albumin (gm/L)	0.37 (0.04-3.44)	0.38
ICU stay (day)	1.09 (0.71-1.69)	0.68
MV duration (day)	1.32 (0.79-2.21)	0.28
RSBI	1.10 (0.85-1.42)	0.46
Minute ventilation (L/min)	0.67 (0.20-2.21)	0.73

Table (8) shows; the multivariate analysis demonstrates that serum Mg⁺⁺ level (P= 0.03) and SaO₂% change between the beginning and the end of weaning trial (P= 0.02) were a significant predictors of prolonged weaning.

Table (9): Optimum diagnostic cut off value, AUC (parentheses 95% CI), sensitivity, specificity, and positive (PPV) and negative predictive values (percentages) of ventilator and blood gases parameters at baseline for predicting prolonged weaning

Variable	Cutoff	AUC (95% CI)	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy	P value
Serum Mg ⁺⁺ (mg/dL)	≤1.5	0.83 (0.70-0.92)	61.5	92.5	72.7	88.1	77.00	<0.0001
Tidal volume(mL)	≤450	0.69 (0.55-0.81)	76.9	55.0	35.7	88	65.95	0.02
PH	≤7.1	0.57 (0.42-0.70)	30.8	95.0	66.7	80.9	62.90	0.54
PaCO ₂ (mmHg)	≥52	0.57 (0.43-0.71)	61.5	75.0	44.4	85.7	68.25	0.55
PaO ₂ (mmHg)	≤40	0.59 (0.44-0.72)	38.5	87.5	50.0	81.4	63.00	0.41
SaO ₂ %	≤78	0.51 (0.37-0.65)	38.5	75.0	33.3	78.9	56.75	0.93
HCO ₃ (mEq/L)	≤31	0.64 (0.49-0.76)	84.6	45.0	33.3	90.0	64.80	0.09

Table (9) shows that optimum diagnostic cut off value of baseline serum Mg⁺⁺ level (≤1.5mg/dL) was statically significant for predicting prolonged weaning (P < 0.0001). Optimum diagnostic cut off value of baseline tidal volume (≤450 mL) was statically significant for predicting prolonged weaning (P < 0.02).

Fig. (1): ROC curve analysis of baseline serum Mg⁺⁺ level in predicting prolonged weaning

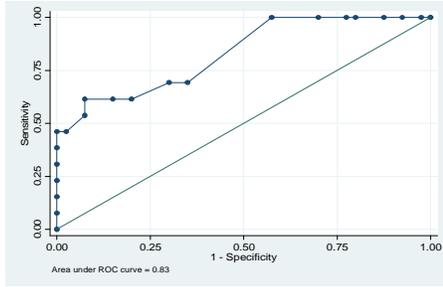


Fig. (2): ROC curve analysis of baseline tidal volume in predicting prolonged weaning

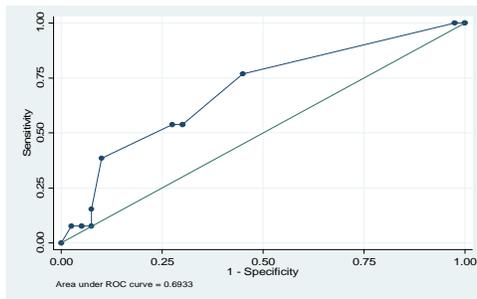


Table (10): Optimum diagnostic cut off value, AUC (parentheses 95% CI), sensitivity, specificity, and positive (PPV) and negative predictive values (percentages) of ventilator and blood gases parameters at the beginning of the first weaning trial for predicting prolonged weaning

Variable	Cutoff	AUC (95% CI)	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy	P value
Tidal volume(mL)	≤480	0.61 (0.47-0.75)	69.2	52.5	32.1	0.84	60.85	0.18
Respiratory rate(cycle/min)	>19	0.64 (0.49-0.77)	69.2	67.5	40.9	87.1	68.35	0.1
PH	>7.44	0.53 (0.39-0.67)	46.5	72.5	35.3	80.6	59.50	0.79
PaCO2(mmHg)	≥49	0.69 (0.55-0.81)	69.2	62.5	37.5	86.2	65.85	0.02
PaO2(mmHg)	≤94	0.58 (0.43-0.71)	100	17.5	28.3	100	58.75	0.39
SaO2%	≤91	0.88 (0.77-0.96)	100	60	44.8	100	80.00	<0.0001
HCO3(mEq/L)	≤31	0.52 (0.38-0.66)	46.2	70.0	33.3	80.0	58.10	0.86
P/F	≤151	0.62 (0.47-0.75)	38.5	85.0	45.5	81.0	61.75	0.19
Shunt	>10.3	0.59 (0.45-0.72)	92.3	37.5	32.4	93.7	64.90	0.27
(A-a) gradient	>136	0.51 (0.37-0.65)	92.3	40	33.3	94.1	66.15	0.87

Table (10) shows that optimum diagnostic cut off value of PaCO₂ at first weaning trial (≥49mmHg) was statically significant for predicting prolonged weaning (P <0.02). Optimum diagnostic cut off value of SaO₂% at first weaning trial (≤91%) was statically significant for predicting prolonged weaning (P <0.0001).

Fig. (3): ROC curve analysis of PaCO₂ (first weaning trial) in predicting prolonged weaning

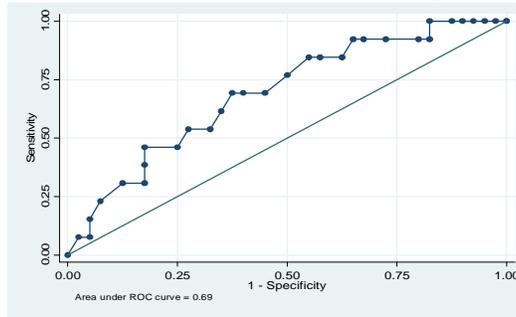


Fig. (4): ROC curve analysis of SaO₂% (first weaning trial) in predicting prolonged weaning

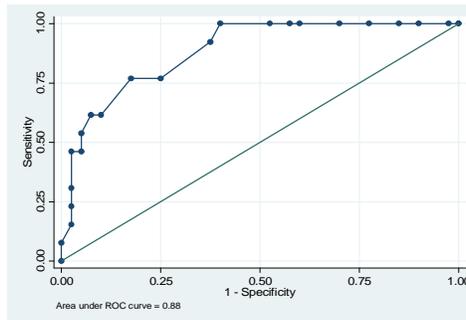
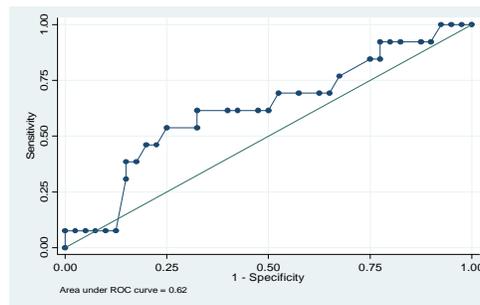


Table (11): Optimum diagnostic cut off value, AUC (parentheses 95% CI), sensitivity, specificity, and positive (PPV) and negative predictive values (percentages) of changes in ventilator and blood gases parameters between the beginning and the end of weaning trial for predicting prolonged weaning

Variable	Cutoff	AUC (95% CI)	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	Accuracy	P value
PH change	>0.23	0.57 (0.43-0.71)	38.5	85	45.5	81.0	61.75	0.48
PaCO ₂ change	>[-46]	0.50 (0.36-0.64)	69.2	10.0	20	50	39.60	1.00
PaO ₂ change	≤42	0.50 (0.36-0.64)	100	20	28.9	100	60.00	0.99
SaO ₂ % change	≥5	0.76 (0.62-0.86)	84.6	65.0	44.0	92.9	74.80	0.003
HCO ₃ change	>6	0.62 (0.48-0.75)	61.5	67.5	38.1	84.4	64.50	0.19

Table (11) shows that optimum diagnostic cut off value of SaO₂% change in the form of decrease between baseline and first weaning trial (≤5) was statically significant for predicting prolonged weaning (P < 0.003).

Fig. (5): ROC curve analysis of SaO₂% change between the beginning and the end of weaning trial in predicting prolonged weaning



Discussion:

We tried in this study to determine the predictors of prolonged weaning during weaning of mechanically ventilated patients in respiratory intensive care unit; we included 13 patients (24.5%) with prolonged weaning, 40 cases other weaning outcomes (simple and difficult weaning).

We found in our study that there was no significant relationship between prolonged weaning and age, gender this result was in agreement with the study of Jacobo et al¹², who found that there was no significant difference among weaning outcomes as regarding age and gender (P= 0.99).

This study found that there was no significant relationship between prolonged weaning and the cause of respiratory failure as regard COPD (P= 0.3), pneumonia (P= 0.52), IPF (P= 0.63), overlap syndrome (P= 0.59), bronchiectasis (P= 0.09), OH syndrome (P= 0.59), malignancy (P= 1.00) and kyphoscoliosis (P= 1.00) this result disagreed with the study of Jacobo et al,¹² who found that there was significant relation between patient with COPD and prolonged weaning (p= 0.018) and in other study Awaloei and Luke;¹³ who found that patients with pneumonia are associated with prolonged weaning (P= 0.002).

There was no significant relationship between prolonged weaning and co-

morbidities this result disagreed with the study of Awaloei and Luke;¹³ who found that patients with cardiovascular failure (P= 0.047) are associated with prolonged weaning.

We found that patients with prolonged weaning associated with low serum Mg⁺⁺ level, this result agreed with the study of Adel et al,¹⁴ who found that, there was an association between low serum magnesium levels and weaning failure. This can be explained by its effect on neuromuscular abilities and direct impairment of the contractile properties of the diaphragm.

We found in our study that optimum diagnostic cut off value of serum Mg⁺⁺ level (≤ 1.5) was as significant predictor for prolonged weaning (P < 0.0001), this result was in agreement with the study of Thongprayoon et al,¹⁵ who found that hypomagnesaemia at admission (< 1.5 mg/dl) was associated with an increased requiring MV in patients with acute respiratory failure (OR: 1.69; 1.19–2.36) and as a cause of failure of weaning from mechanical ventilation and proposed patients to difficult and prolonged weaning.

Our study showed that the mean level of baseline tidal volume was significantly lower in patients with prolonged weaning in comparison to patients with other weaning outcomes and was a significant predictor of

prolonged weaning, this result disagreed with the result of Conti et al,¹⁶ who found that, vital capacity, tidal volume, VE, respiratory frequency (RR), maximum inspiratory pressure (P_Imax) and RSBI are poor predictors of weaning outcome in an ICU population. This was being explained by low tidal volume can lead to inadequate ventilation with causing atelectotrauma.¹⁷

We found that optimum diagnostic cut off value of tidal volume (≤ 450) was a significant predictor for prolonged weaning ($P < 0.02$).

As regard measurement of PaCO₂ at the beginning of the first weaning trial we found that PaCO₂ was significantly higher in patients with prolonged weaning in comparison to other weaning outcomes ($P = 0.04$) this result agreed with the study of Jacobo et al,¹² who found that on the day of the first SBT patients with prolonged weaning had a higher PaCO₂ ($P = 0.006$), so higher PaCO₂ was independently related to the prolongation of weaning as these patients develop increased cardiopulmonary stress during an unsuccessful SBT.

PaCO₂ is directly associated with the imbalance between ventilatory demands and capacity in patients who are not yet ready to be disconnected from the ventilator, increased CO₂ retention during spontaneous breathing strongly predicts prolonged weaning and worse survival. If high level of PaCO₂ was detected in the patient at the onset of weaning, the clinician should implement measures aimed to improving the outcome of weaning from MV.¹⁸

Our study found that optimum diagnostic cut off value of PaCO₂ at first weaning trial (≥ 49) was a significant predictor for prolonged weaning ($P < 0.02$), this result agreed with the study of Jacobo et al,¹² who found that PaCO₂ ≥ 54 mmHg during

the spontaneous breathing trial independently predicted prolonged weaning ($P = 0.001$).

Our study showed that at the beginning of the first weaning trial, the mean level of SaO₂% was lower in patients with prolonged in comparison to patients with other weaning outcomes ($P = 0.0001$), this result disagreed with the study of Georgakas et al,¹⁹ who found that, there was no difference between weaning groups, regarding measurement of SaO₂% at the start of SBT. This can be explained by hypoxemia increases the work of breathing per minute by increasing total minute ventilation and in the presence of hypoxemia oxygen delivery to the respiratory muscles may be inadequate and predisposing to muscle fatigue or failure.²⁰

Our study found that optimum diagnostic cut off value of SaO₂% at beginning of first weaning trial ≤ 91 was a significant predictor for prolonged weaning ($P < 0.0001$).

Multivariate analysis of our study showed that SaO₂% change in the form of decrease of mean level of SaO₂% (≥ 5) between the beginning and the end of a weaning trial ($P = 0.02$) was significant predictor for prolonged weaning this result agreed with study of Georgakas et al,²⁰ who found that, a decrease of less than 4% in ScvO₂ values between the beginning and the end of an SBT was also independently associated with a successful outcome.

Our study showed that duration of MV was significantly long in patients with prolonged weaning, this result agreed with the study of Awaloei and Luke;¹⁴ who found that duration more than 5 days on MV prior to start of weaning are associated with prolonged weaning

Conclusions:

Several factors were associated with prolonged weaning, however, when subjected to multivariate analysis, only

serum Mg⁺⁺ & SaO₂% change significantly predict prolonged weaning. Prolonged weaning is associated with increased ICU stay and higher rate of tracheostomy.

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