Bernhard Dräger Award 2017 given to Dr Domenico Luca Grieco

Lübeck – Dr Domenico Luca Grieco of the Catholic University of The Sacred Heart, Rome, received this year’s Bernhard Dräger Award, which is endowed with a sum of EUR 15,000. Professor Lui Forni, Chair of the Research Committee of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) and Frank van Rooyen, Global Marketing Manager at Dräger, presented the award at the 30th ESICM Congress, which was held September 23 to 27, 2017 in Vienna. It was the tenth time that Dräger, a leading international company in the fields of medical and safety technology, had donated the prize money.

Dr Grieco and his team are planning to examine how non-invasively ventilated patients with acute (hypoxemic) respiratory failure can be treated optimally by combining the prone position with nasal highflow (NHF). NHF has proven its worth as an effective ventilation option in ICU patients. Among other things, it allows more precise metering of the oxygen concentration in the breathing gas \((\text{FiO}_2)\), reduces the dead space and maintains a low residual pressure, the PEEP (positive end-expiratory pressure), in the lungs. The prone position offers additional advantages during ventilation, for example by reducing pulmonary shunts, supporting lung recruitment and making it possible to control the distribution of ventilation and perfusion in the lungs. In addition, an earlier study on 20 healthy patients using electrical impedance tomography (EIT) had demonstrated, that in prone position the tidal volume was more evenly distributed from dorsal to ventral than in supine position.

In his pilot study involving 21 adult hypoxic ICU patients, Dr Grieco will examine how safely and efficiently NHF ventilation can be administered to patients in prone position. By using electrical impedance tomography, he will be able to evaluate the distribution of the tidal volume, allowing him to assess the success of the treatment.

10 years of Bernhard Dräger Awards
The “Bernhard Dräger Award for Advanced Treatment of Acute Respiratory Failure” promotes studies that are dedicated to the progressive treatment of...
acute respiratory insufficiency. The prize for junior intensive care and emergency medicine scientists, which is sponsored by Dräger, was first awarded by the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) in 2008.

The award goes back to Dr. Ing. h.c. Bernhard Dräger (1870-1928), son of company founder Heinrich Dräger. Father and son had a lasting influence on the development of the company, which was founded in 1889. Amongst other things, they held 261 German and 443 foreign patents. The Pulmotor was one of the early ground-breaking Dräger products and the first emergency ventilator to be produced on a large scale (1907).

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