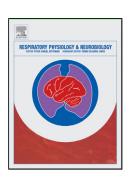
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Lung Pathologies analyzed with Multi-Frequency Electrical Impedance Tomography: Pilot Animal Study

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Abstract

In critically ill patients, correct diagnosis of lung disease is essential for successful therapy. Therefore, this study investigated whether new multi-frequency electrical impedance tomography (mfEIT) can detect, monitor and differentiate between pathologies associated with the acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

For this pilot study, 12 pigs were randomized into an ARDS (bronchoalveolar lavage) group (n=7) and a healthy control group (n=5). Animals were monitored by means of mfEIT. In addition to functional images, a new impaired-ventilation (rImpVent) index was developed and frequency-difference images were computed and analyzed.

Amplitude functional images revealed only small differences between the groups. However, phase functional images were of greater importance in distinguishing between lung pathologies. Correlation images showed substantial differences between the two groups. The new rImpVent index achieved high sensitivity (91%) and specificity (92%) in detecting $PaO_2/FiO_2 \leq 200$ mmHg. mfEIT was able to detect lung edema, differentiate this from atelectasis, and also monitor their progress over time in terms of global and regional differences. *Keywords:* EIT, lung monitoring, ARDS, atelectasis, lung edema

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