

**Table 13: Techniques for Preventing Auto-PEEP in Mechanically Ventilated Patients and for Minimizing It When Present.**

Aggressively treat airflow obstruction

Inhaled bronchodilators

Systemic corticosteroids

Aggressive clearance of secretions

Maximize expiratory time

Decrease overall minute ventilation (especially if pH > 7.40)

Increase inspiratory flow rate to 90-100 L/min

Exchange large-bore disposable ventilator circuit for non-disposable,

low compressible-volume circuit

Decrease patient's inspiratory work of breathing when auto-PEEP is present

If patient is making spontaneous inspiratory efforts, add external PEEP to 80% of measured or estimated auto-PEEP level