



15 Things You Should Know About Heliox Therapy



1. The major benefit of heliox comes from its lower density and improvement in flow dynamics and therefore, is primarily used for treatment of upper airway obstructions, croup, and post-extubation stridor.
2. Heliox has also demonstrated usefulness in obstructive lung diseases, such as asthma and COPD, as a vehicle for better deposition of bronchodilators.
3. Heliox given through mechanical ventilation administration may result in a lower PIP and a reduction in PaCO₂.
4. Heliox is temporary and expensive, and is meant to be used as short-term bridge therapy while the underlying etiology is addressed. Heliox is never given as a stand-alone therapy!
5. The AVEA uses a “smart” connector to provide Heliox where the air source is usually attached at the back of the ventilator. The AVEA will only accept an 80/20 mixture.
6. If Heliox gas is connected, a green “HeOx” icon displays in the bottom right of the touch screen.
7. Do not use the hot wire flow sensor with Heliox. Do not use the internal nebulizer with Heliox, and use of an external flow source to power the nebulizer is not recommended.
8. The analyzed oxygen is displayed correctly – the balance of the gas is Helium. (e.g. 30% FiO₂ = 70% Helium)
9. You cannot disable the O₂ alarms when Heliox is in use.
10. The alarm “LOSS, HELIOX” will be triggered if the attached cylinder pressure drops below 18 PSI (we should change it well before then anyway)
11. Using the “Suction” or “Increase O₂” button will interrupt Heliox delivery.
12. Heliox may affect humidifier temperatures and/or cause increased condensation in the tubing due to the increased thermal conductivity of Helium.
13. The gas is beneficial only at a lower FiO₂ (higher Helium). You may need to accept a lower saturation in order to achieve this!
14. Be prepared to change cylinders. It is not unusual to run through 2 or 3 H size cylinders per shift.
15. Do NOT use HeliOx as a source gas with the 980. It will cause the ventilator to shut down.



HeliOx Expert Wallet Card

This card verifies that _____
(Print Name Here)

is an expert in the setup of HeliOx with the AVEA Ventilator, and is entitled to all the rights and privileges granted with competence.

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