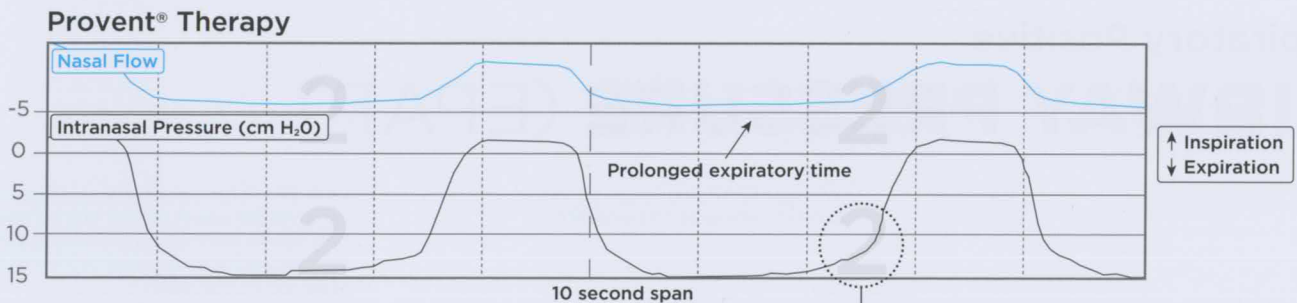


EPAP Maintains POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE Until the Start of the Next Inspiration



The patient has maintained 12 cm H₂O pressure at end expiration and the end expiratory pause has been eliminated. Pressure has been maintained up to the start of the next inspiration.

Possible Mechanisms of Action Include^{1,2}:

- Increase in FRC from increased end expiratory pressure leading to tracheal traction on upper airway
- Passive expiratory dilatation of upper airway carrying over into inspiration
- Rise in end-tidal PCO₂ (hypercapnia) resulting in increased respiratory drive to the upper airway

References

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2. Braga CW, Chen Q, Burschtin O, Rapoport DM, Ayappa I. Changes in lung volume and upper airway using MRI during application of nasal expiratory positive airway pressure in patients with sleep disordered breathing. *J Appl Physiol* 2011 (in press)



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