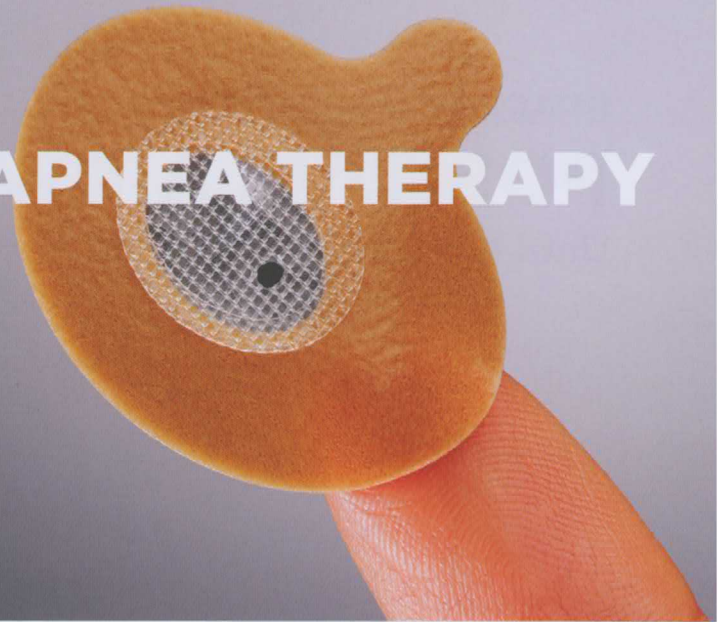


PROVENT[®] SLEEP APNEA THERAPY

Method of Action

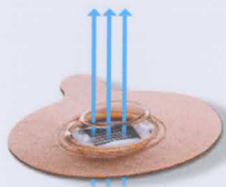
Provent's proprietary MicroValve technology uses the patient's own breathing to create Expiratory Positive Airway Pressure to increase airway caliber during the critical end-expiratory period when the airway is most narrow.



Expiratory Positive AIRWAY PRESSURE (EPAP)

Without EPAP, the upper airway is most narrow at end expiration.

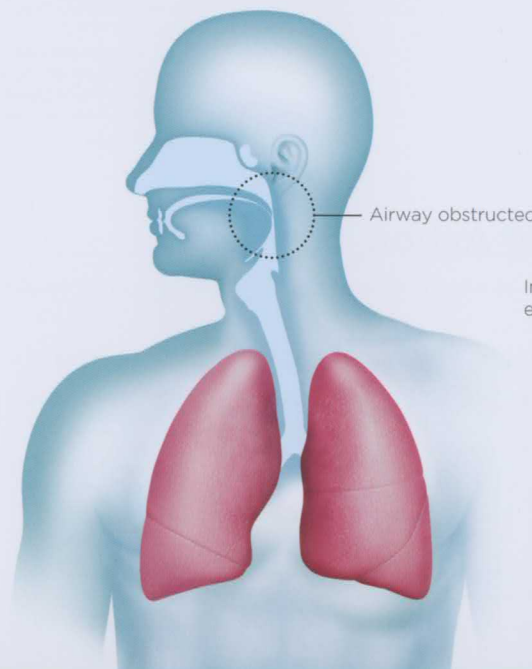
With EPAP, increased airway pressure expands the upper airway and increased FRC exerts traction on the airway during end expiration. Both mechanisms help keep the airway open.



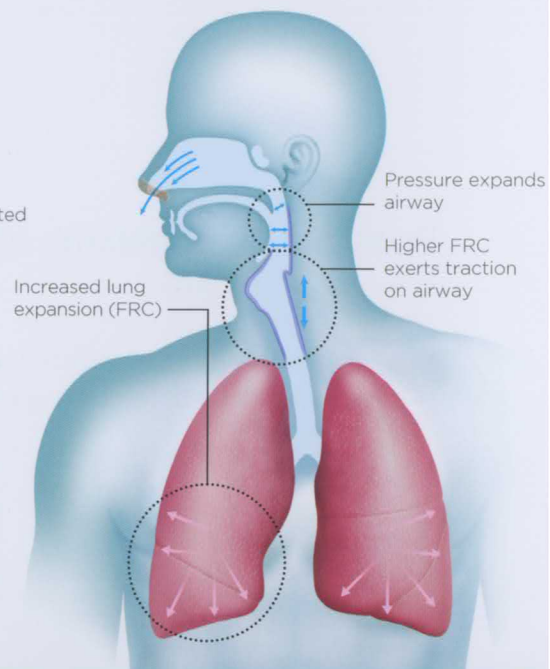
During inspiration the MicroValve opens to allow for nearly unobstructed airflow.



During expiration the MicroValve closes, restricting airflow to create EPAP and maintain pressure in the airway through the start of the next inspiration.



Airway obstructed



Pressure expands airway

Higher FRC exerts traction on airway

Increased lung expansion (FRC)