

# Spontaneous Breathing Apparatus and Method

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## Technology description

### Summary

A novel assisted breathing system and method that greatly decreases/eliminates the work of breathing and is under the total control of the patient.

The system includes a minitracheostomy tube, a reverse thrust gas insufflation catheter introduced through a special minitracheostomy tube to deliver well humidified air/oxygen to near the carina, and a threshold valve to limit airway plateau pressure. Inspiration is effected through spontaneous closing of the glottic opening, while expiration follows opening of the glottis. The patient can control the rate of respiration and tidal volumes. Lung inflation is therefore passive and accounts for the nominal work of breathing. Speech, sound, and coughing ability remains unimpeded.

### Institution

[NIH - National Institutes of Health](#)

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