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**PROTOCOL VS NON-PROTOCOL FOR WEANING FROM MECHANICAL VENTILATION: A MULTICENTRIC STUDY**

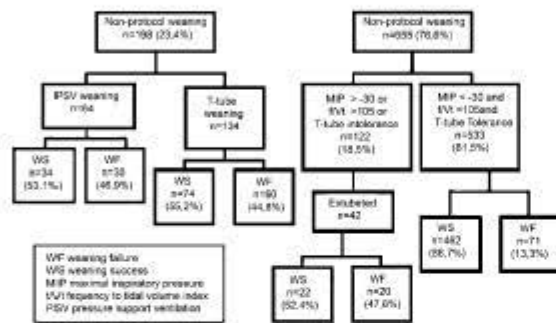
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**INTRODUCTION.** The purpose of this study was to validate a weaning protocol (WP).

**METHODS.** Prospective study, including all patients admitted from Jan-2002 to Dec-2005, in three medical-surgical ICU.

**RESULTS.** Six hundred ninety-two patients on mechanical ventilation (MV) for more than 48h were submitted to weaning trial (853 weaning trials). Unsuccessful extubation (reintubation in 48h) occurred in 18.3% of patients. The weaning success was higher in WP group ( $p < 0.05$ ). The time on MV was higher in patients at WP group ( $p = 0.02$ ).



**CONCLUSION.** The use of the WP decreases the weaning failure. The MV days were higher on WP group, without significant complications.