



BREATHLESS PATIENT

Any reversible cause
eg infection, effusion, exacerbation of COPD
disease progression where further treatment possible

YES

Treat if appropriate
according to recognised
guidelines

Patient responds
to treatment

No response
to treatment

Evidence of SVCO, large airway obstruction
or lymphangitis carcinomatosis.

YES

Trial of
Dexamethasone

NO

Type II respiratory failure

YES

Consider NIPPV

NO

Hypoxia

YES

Trial of O₂

NO

Thick sputum

YES

Trial of nebulised
saline

NO

Consider: Opioids
Benzodiazepines
Behavioural
techniques
Fans
Acupuncture

Death Rattle

YES

Glycopyrronium or hyoscine

NO