Management Algorithm for Refractory Hypoxemia/Elevated Plateau Pressure

1. **PaO2<60 mm Hg with FiO2 70% & PEEP>12 cm H2O?**
   - **YES:** Initiate continuous sedation
   - **NO:** Continue to monitor

2. **PaO2 > 60 & plateau pressure <30-35**
   - **YES:** Continue to monitor
   - **NO:** Initiate neuromuscular blockade

3. **PaO2 > 60 & plateau pressure <30-35**
   - **YES:** Continue to monitor
   - **NO:** Consider changing I:E to 1:1 or 2:1

4. **PaO2 > 60 & plateau pressure <30-35**
   - **YES:** Continue to monitor
   - **NO:** Prone

5. **If unresponsive to prone position or unable to tolerate supine position after 48-72 hours, consider transfer to ECMO center.**

*Evaluate and treat causes of hypoxemia and elevated plateau pressure as indicated by clinical condition. These include pneumonia, atelectasis, pulmonary edema, pneumothorax, pleural effusions, and abdominal compartment syndrome.*