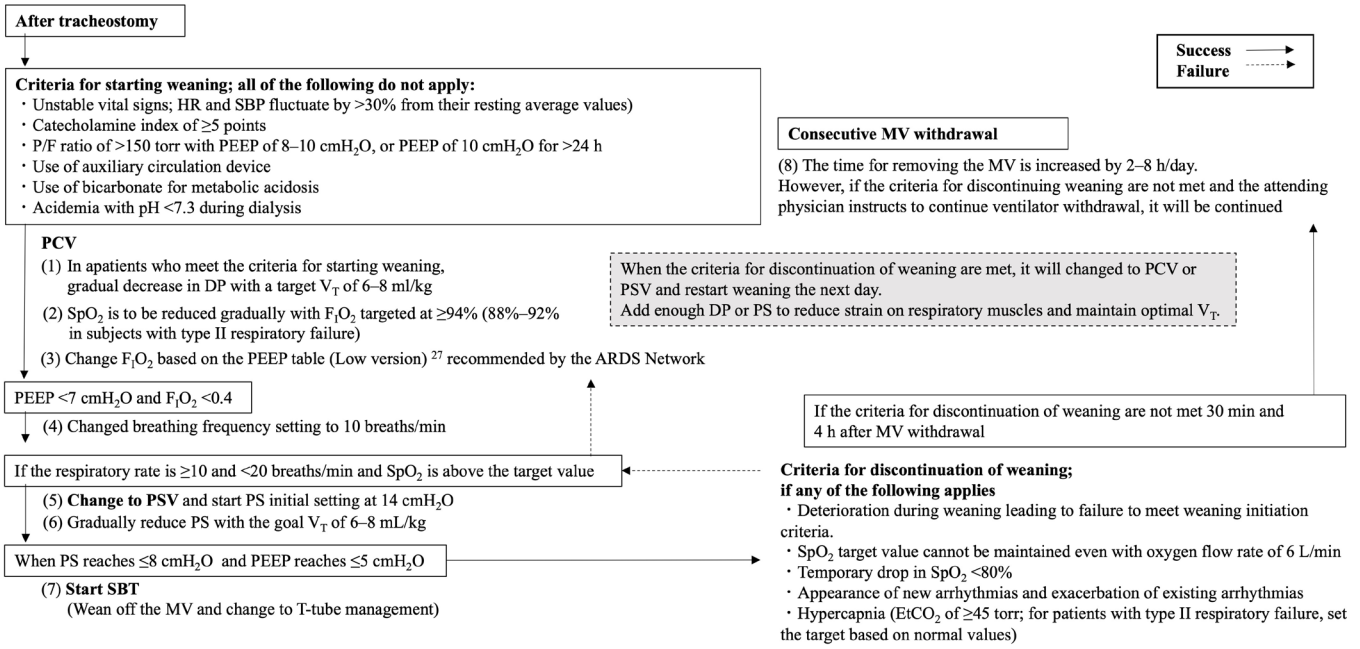

Supplementary Figure 1. Protocol for weaning from a mechanical ventilator. At our institution, ventilator discontinuation after a successful liberation trial is generally continued unless discontinuation criteria are met. In selected patients, an alternative stepwise withdrawal practice may be used, in which ventilator-free time is increased by approximately 2–8 hr/day at the attending physician's discretion; in this study, patients who were managed with this alternative approach were not included. Catecholamine index was calculated as DOA (μg/kg/min)+DOB (μg/kg/min)+NAd (μg/kg/min)×100. HR: heart rate; SBP: systolic blood pressure; P/F ratio: PaO_2/FiO_2 ratio; PEEP: positive end expiratory pressure; PCV: pressure control ventilation; DP: driving pressure; V_T: tidal volume; ARDS: acute respiratory distress syndrome; PS: pressure support; SBT: spontaneous breathing trial; MV: mechanical ventilation; EtCO2: end-tidal carbon dioxide; DOA: dopamine; DOB: dobutamine; NAd: noradrenaline.