

Smooth muscle cell

Alveolus

iNO: inhaled nitric oxide
O₂: oxygen
Hb: hemoglobin
methHb: methemoglobin
GTP: guanosine triphosphate
cGMP: cyclic guanosine monophosphate

iNO → guanylate cyclase

GTP → cGMP → relaxation

O₂

iNO

O₂

iNO

iNO O₂
iNO O₂

O₂

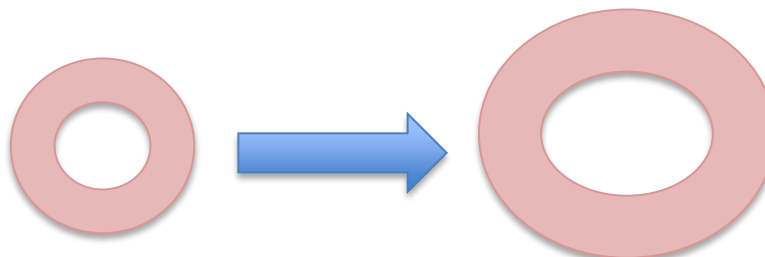
O₂ iNO

Pulmonary artery

Hb + NO → methHb, NO Hb, NO₂⁻, NO₃⁻

Endothelial cell

End result:



Pulmonary artery dilation
→ more blood to the
lungs for oxygenation