Figure 9-7. Interpreting the P/V curve

1. Deflation limb
2. Inflation limb
3. Upper inflection point of inflation limb (UIP)
4. Difference in volume between two curves (dv)
5. Lower inflection point of inflation limb (LIP)
6. Linear compliance (Clin)

The P/V Tool maneuver generates two curves: 1) the inflation P/V curve (in green), and 2) the deflation P/V curve (in yellow and usually shifted to the left). Obtain the information from the curve as listed above (see legend number 3 to 6).

In addition, you can obtain several pieces of information from the deflation limb, such as the PEEP level required to avoid alveoli collapse after a special maneuver to open alveoli (recruitment maneuver). For comprehensive physiological explanations, refer to recent publications¹.