

# Ventilation Response During Physical Testing in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

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## ABSTRACT

Patients with CHF and COPD were examined during physical activity with dynamic monitoring of  $CO_2$ . Parameters of dyspnea are compared with  $CO_2$  values before, during and after 6MWT. When performing physical activity revealed signs of periodic breathing, which has a prognostic value.

## Introduction

Dyspnea is the most important symptom of patients with Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) and patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The nature of this dyspnea, despite tremendous advances in the fields of cardiology and pulmonology, is not well known [1,2]. Difficulties arise probably when trying to objectify the patient's subjective feelings. This is partly due to the lack of a unified interpretation of the concept of dyspnea. Necessary measures in the diagnosis are methods of instrumental objectivization [3,4]. Along with the generally accepted methods of examination, various functional diagnostic methods are used to determine functional impairment, in which the parameters of gas exchange are often examined [5]. The value of end-tidal  $CO_2$  ( $P_{ET}CO_2$ ) is a constant that indicates the activity of the respiratory system [6]. Dyspnea is combined with changes in pulmonary ventilation and  $CO_2$  gas exchange [7,8]. Dyspnea is one of the most frequent reasons why patients stopped during the 6-Minute Walk Test (6MWT). Exercise tests are used to determine exercise tolerance in patients with CHF and COPD [9].

## Purpose

To explore the features of changes  $P_{ET}CO_2$  during execution 6MWT in patients with CHF and COPD.

## Methods

We studied 52 patients with CHF in New York Heart Association (NYHA), age  $58 \pm 3,24$  years (25 patients (48,1%) in NYHA class II, 22 patients (4,3%) in NYHA class III, 5 patients (9,6%) in NYHA class IV). Also, we studied 42 patients with COPD II-III, age  $60 \pm 3,48$  years (1<sup>st</sup> group - 22 patients (52,4%) with COPD II, 2<sup>nd</sup> group-20 patients (47,6%) with COPD III). Control group 30 patients, age  $48 \pm 3,42$  years. Standard 6MWT was performed. Dyspnea was evaluated on a scale of Borg, MRS and VAS. We recorded nanogram before, during, after the 6MWT and in the recovery period using a capnograph Life Sense.

## Results

Significance of  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in patients with CHF in NYHA class II was  $38,2 \pm 2,13$  mm Hg, in patients in NYHA class III was  $34,4 \pm 2,22$  mm Hg, in patients in NYHA class IV was  $32,4 \pm 1,14$  mm Hg. Significance of  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in 1<sup>st</sup> group patients with COPD was  $36,2 \pm 2,43$  mm Hg, in 2<sup>nd</sup> group patients was  $34,1 \pm 1,22$  mm Hg. All patients performed 6MWT. The 6MWT distance in patients with CHF in NYHA class II was  $384 \pm 10,56$  m, in NYHA class III was  $290 \pm 17,24$  m, in NYHA class IV was  $142 \pm 3,51$  m. The 6MWT distance in 1<sup>st</sup> group patients with

COPD was  $440 \pm 15,48$ m, in 2<sup>nd</sup> group was  $384 \pm 15,42$ m. There is reduction  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in all patients with CHF during the 6MWT.  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in patients with CHF in NYHA class II was  $33,34 \pm 2,51$ mm Hg, in NYHA class III was  $31,75 \pm 2,89$ mm Hg, in NYHA class IV was  $28,8 \pm 1,32$ mm Hg. 69,2% patients reported dyspnea as the main reason for a stop during the 6MWT. There is increase  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in all patients with COPD during the 6MWT. After the 6MWT the significance of  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in 1<sup>st</sup> group was  $43,21 \pm 2,81$ mm Hg, in 2<sup>nd</sup> group was  $45,05 \pm 3,26$  mm Hg. All patients reported dyspnea as the main reason for a stop during the execution 6MWT. When we analyzed the trend of  $P_{ET}CO_2$  we found that these patients showed signs of periodic breathing (Figure 1) than control group.

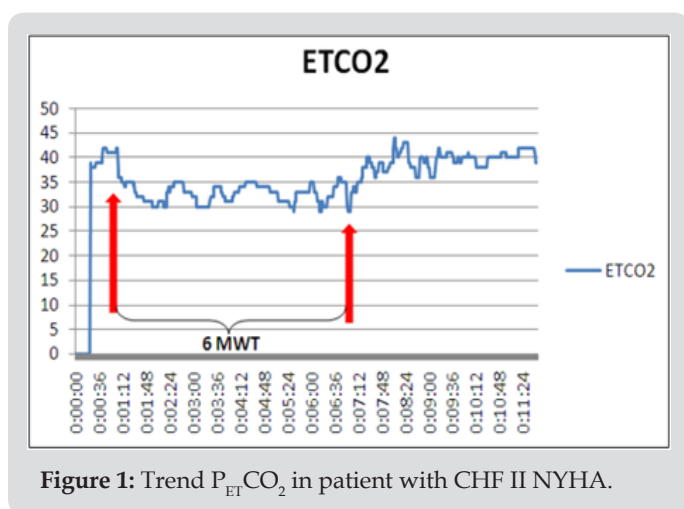


Figure 1: Trend  $P_{ET}CO_2$  in patient with CHF II NYHA.


## Conclusion

Thus, capnography increases the diagnostic value of the 6MWT, helps to make interpretation of dyspnea in patients with CHF and COPD.

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