

Publication

Assessment of thoraco-abdominal asynchrony

JournalItem (Reviews, Editorials, Rezensionen, Urteilsanmerkungen etc. in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 1197241

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Year 2009

Title Assessment of thoraco-abdominal asynchrony

Journal Paediatric respiratory reviews

Volume 10

Number 2

Pages 75-80

Keywords diaphragmatic paralysis, phase angle, Lissajous figure, upper airway obstruction, respiratory inductance plethysmography, sleep study

Thoraco-abdominal asynchrony is often observed in many respiratory disorders and/or respiratory muscle dysfunctions and clinically assessed as a sign of respiratory distress and increased work of breathing. This review describes the assessment of thoraco-abdominal asynchrony by respiratory inductance plethysmography. Visual inspection of the Konno-Mead plot yields information about the relative contribution of the RC and the ABD to respiration and about respiratory muscle dysfunction in selected patients. The monitoring of thoraco-abdominal asynchrony is a useful, non-invasive indicator of respiratory muscle load or respiratory muscle dysfunction and can be used to determine response to therapy in individual patients. The technique is limited by the fact that it does not detect respiratory muscle fatigue and that the occurrence of TAA does not always correspond to a clinically relevant respiratory problem, especially in the neonatal period.

Publisher Saunders

ISSN/ISBN 1526-0542

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/dok/A5250257>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1016/j.prrv.2009.02.004

PubMed ID <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19410206>

ISI-Number WOS:000266472600008

Document type (ISI) Review