Use of nitric oxide inhalation in COPD

Ashutosh et al report that inhaled nitric oxide (INO) lowers pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR) in stable patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) receiving long term oxygen therapy (24 hours’ treatment, randomised, double blind, crossover study). Oxygen was delivered via face mask at a rate of 2 l/min to which NO was diluted down from 200 ppm (cylinder) to achieve a final concentration of 25 ppm inspired. The authors conclude that vasodilation and relaxation of the pulmonary arterial bed is responsible for the fall in PVR.

Pulmonary arterial pressures were measured by cardiac catheterisation.Expired air was collected for five minutes and carbon dioxide output (VCO2) and deadspace/tidal volume ratio (Vd/Vt) were measured. Carbon dioxide rebreathing method of cardiac output measurements during acute respiratory failure in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Crit Care Med 1994;22:81–5.


We fully agree with their final comment that our study results need to be evaluated and confirmed by larger and more rigorous studies.

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NOTICE

The Sheffield Seminar

“The Sheffield Seminar” will take place in Sheffield, UK, starting on May 2001. The meeting will focus on all aspects of cardiothoracic surgery, starting next year with general thoracic surgery topics. It will take place on 31 May and 1 June 2001 at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU, UK. For further information contact Mr G Rocco, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon. Telephone +44 114 244 4950. Fax +44 114 261 0350. Email: grocco@tany.fsnet.co.uk

CORRECTION

CFC transition

In the editorial entitled “CFC transition: the Emperor’s new clothes—each class of drug deserves a delivery system that meets its own requirements” published on pages 811–4 of the October 2000 issue of Thorax an error appeared in the sentence of the second paragraph on page 811. This should have read “It seems probable that, during the later part of 2001, the FDA will grant a licence to deliver insulin as an aerosol.”

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