

Thorax

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESPIRATORY MEDICINE

Editorial

Assessment of illness severity in community acquired pneumonia page 371

Research articles

Lung function and mortality in the USA: data from the NHANES I follow up study page 388

Health outcomes following 6 months' treatment with once daily tiotropium compared with twice daily salmeterol in COPD page 399

Inadequate PEF meter characteristics detected by a computerised explosive decompression device page 411

Increased concentrations of human β -defensins in plasma and BAL fluid of patients with DPB page 425

Effect of topical nasal corticosteroid prophylaxis on episodic viral wheeze in preschool children page 431

Review

Non-pharmacological management of COPD page 453

Supplement II

BTS guidelines for the management of pleural disease page ii1