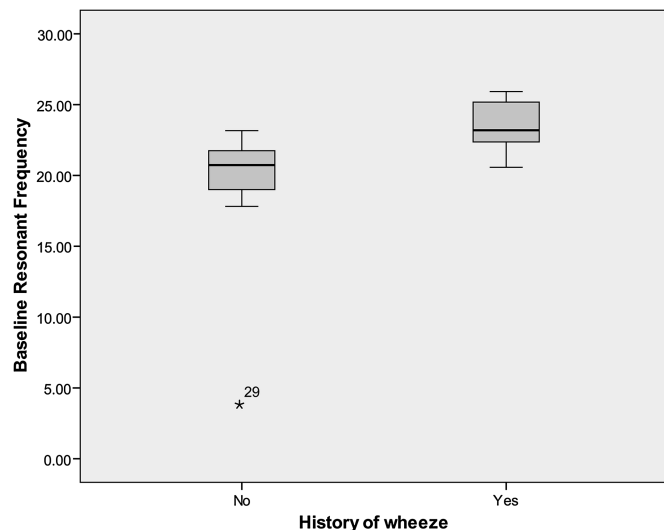


significant differences were found in the Fres of children who had previously been diagnosed with asthma by a doctor compared to non asthmatics ($p=0.015$); and those with atopy and wheeze compared to those with no atopic wheeze ($p=0.015$) (Abstract P79 Figure 1).



Abstract P79 Figure 1 The differences in resonant frequency between preschool children with a history of wheeze and those without a history of wheeze.

Discussion IOS yields high quality lung function data in most children over 3.5 years age. The technique is able to detect group differences related to wheezing tendency in this age group, and may be a useful clinical tool for use in young children over 3.5 years.

P80 PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN UNDERGOING SCOLIOSIS SURGERY

doi:10.1136/thx.2010.150979.31

¹A L Ross Russell, ²S Charlton, ³E R Mooney, ³C Ward, ⁴R I Ross Russell. ¹School of Clinical Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK; ²Department of Orthopaedics, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK; ³School of Clinical Medicine, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK; ⁴Department of Paediatrics, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK

Introduction Historically, assessment of operative risk in children prior to scoliosis surgery has been largely based on pre-operative lung function testing. Children having scoliosis surgery suffer from a wide range of conditions and many are unable to perform lung function testing. Furthermore, the risk of post-operative ventilation is decreasing suggesting better predictors may be needed. We currently evaluate all such patients, using assessment of airway competency, cough strength, and muscle bulk in estimating the risk of requiring post-operative ventilation. Our data suggest that lung function testing is no longer a good predictor of outcome in this group of patients.

Methods We retrospectively reviewed the records of 97 patients who have undergone scoliosis surgery between 2004 and 2010. Pulmonary function testing (PFT) was attempted wherever possible. Patients were clinically assessed prior to surgery, and an estimated risk of post-operative ventilation made. Comparison of each method (PFT and clinical assessment) against a primary outcome of requirement for post-operative ventilation, and secondary outcomes of PICU/HDU and hospital length of stay.

Results PFT was successful in 68/97 (70%) of our patients. One child had an FVC<40% predicted and three children had FVC 40–50% predicted. None of these children required ventilation post-

operatively. Of the 14 patients who required post-operative ventilation, pulmonary function testing was only possible for four (FVC range 59%–74% predicted). The remaining 10 who needed ventilation were unable to perform PFT. Clinical assessment of risk was highly accurate in predicting the number of children requiring post-operative ventilation in all groups (Abstract P80 Table 1).

Abstract P80 Table 1

Predicted risk level	No in group	Predicted number ventilated	Actual number ventilated	Hospital LoS (days—median, range)
Low (<10%)	62	3.2	3	7 (4–16)
Medium (10–30%)	20	3.1	5	9 (3–21)
High (>30%)	13	6.3	5	10 (3–22)

Conclusions The group of patients who are most likely to require post-operative ventilation are poor candidates for pulmonary function testing. To assess these children we need to take account of other factors which are important for their respiratory function post-operatively. Clinical assessment of risk can be highly accurate in predicting the need for ventilation following scoliosis surgery.

P81 THE CHANGING INCIDENCE OF PAEDIATRIC EMPYEMA IN NE ENGLAND 2006–2010

doi:10.1136/thx.2010.150979.32

¹M F Thomas, ²C Simmister, ¹S P Rushton, ¹D A Spencer. ¹Newcastle University, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK; ²Newcastle-upon-Tyne NHS Foundation Trust, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK

Introduction and objectives The incidence of empyema has been increasing in children. We investigated trends in the incidence of empyema cases over the time period 2006–2010 in relation to temperature, rainfall and the introduction of the pneumococcal vaccine using regression analysis.

Methods All admissions with ICD-10 codes J86.0 and J86.9 coding for pyothorax with/without fistula from 1st January 2006 until 31st May 2010 were collated. A generalised least squares (GLS) modelling technique was employed to investigate trends in child cases in relation to local average monthly maximum temperature and monthly rainfall. The timing of the introduction of the PCV-7 vaccine was included as a co-variate.

Results 183 cases of paediatric empyema were identified. There was a negative relationship between number of cases of childhood empyema and average maximum temperature in the month of admission ($t=-2.24$, $p>0.00$). Introduction of the PCV-7 vaccine was associated with a reduction in cases ($t=-5.00$, $p=0.02$). There was no significant relationship between the number of cases and average monthly rainfall. There was no significant evidence of autocorrelation for this model suggesting that the number of cases each month were independent of the number in the preceding or following month. Fitted values from the model and the observed trend in cases are shown in Abstract P81 Figure 1. The number of cases appears to be inversely related to temperature variation across the year. The R-squared of the final model was 0.36, whilst the R-squared for model without the vaccine was 0.30, suggesting that 6% of the variation in cases could be explained by the introduction of the vaccine.

Conclusions Mean maximum temperature in the month of admission appears to be a significant predictor of cases of empyema and correlates with the cyclical pattern of cases. Introduction of PCV-7 vaccine was associated with a reduction in the number of cases which may be related to a combination of direct and indirect vaccine effects secondary to improved herd immunity. Further work is