

Introduction Diffuse idiopathic pulmonary neuroendocrine cell hyperplasia (DIPNECH) is a rare condition characterised by a generalised proliferation of pulmonary neuroendocrine cells within the respiratory epithelium. Current literature is limited, in particular little is known of its effects on pulmonary function both at the time of diagnosis and prospectively, though it is recognised to cause small airway obstruction.

Objective The aim of this study was to characterise pulmonary function, both at baseline and to also define the change in pulmonary function over time in patients with DIPNECH.

Methods Retrospective analysis of pulmonary function data for patients with a histological diagnosis of DIPNECH was performed. At baseline, pulmonary function was characterised as either obstructive, small airways obstruction, restrictive, mixed (obstructive and restrictive) or normal. Baseline gas transfer (DLCO) and lung volume data was also described. FEV1 was used as the main measure of pulmonary function, and simple linear regressions were created for patients with longitudinal data. This then allowed basic statistical analysis of the change in FEV1 compared to the predicted change.

Results 17 patients (82% female), with a mean age of 59, were included. All had pulmonary function data at baseline and 9 (53%) had prospective data. Baseline pulmonary function was predominantly obstructive in nature with 6 (35%) having classical obstruction, and 7 (41%) small airways obstruction alone with a normal FEV1/FVC ratio, the remaining 4 having either normal (n=3, 23%) or mixed (n=1, 6%) physiology. The mean FEV1 at baseline was 81.6%, and a statistically significant difference was present between mean measured and predicted FEV1 values for the cohort ($p=0.02$). Mean DLCO (n=13) was mildly decreased at 84.6% predicted however corrected to normal with volume. Lung volume data (n=8) where available was normal, except in two patients (12%) who had significantly increased residual volume. Patients with longitudinal data (n=9, 53%) predominantly showed a stable pattern of obstruction with minimal decline. Two patients (12%) did have a significantly increased decline compared to predicted values.

Conclusion Patients with DIPNECH typically have a stable degree of fixed obstruction, however exceptions to this will be seen in patients with a more progressive disease.

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HYPOXIC CHALLENGE TEST (HCT) FOR IN-FLIGHT OXYGEN ASSESSMENTS CAN BE AVOIDED IN PATIENTS WITH LUNG DISEASE AND LOW RESTING PAO₂

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Introduction Hypoxic challenge test consisting of breathing 15% FiO₂ for 20 min with blood gas measurements is recommended by BTS guidelines for the assessment of the requirement for in-flight oxygen. FEV1 and SpO₂ have been demonstrated to be poor predictors of desaturation with no established reliable upper limit of PaO₂, above which patients will not desaturate. We investigated whether there were lower-limit thresholds, beyond which oxygen is always required and hence HCT can be avoided.

Methods Retrospective analysis of all hypoxic challenge tests conducted at our centre between 2010 and 2017 was undertaken. Baseline demographics, diagnosis and contemporaneous

lung function data was recorded. HCT was performed as per BTS guidance and included baseline resting blood gas followed by a repeat after 20 min inspiring 15% FiO₂. If PaO₂ was <6.65 kPa or SpO₂ <85%, 2 L oxygen via nasal cannulae was applied and a repeat blood gas performed to confirm PaO₂ ≥6.65 kPa.

Results HCT was performed on 170 occasions during the study period. COPD was the underlying diagnosis in 110 (64.7%) of tests, ILD in 40 (23.5%) and CF (13, 11.8%). Average age (median [range]) was 67.5 years [49.1–83.8] COPD, 67 [52.3–83.3] ILD, 32.5 [19.1–66.8] CF. Lung function (FEV1%pred) was 49.7[21–115] COPD, 71.6 [31–124] ILD, 36.5[23–65] CF. Following HCT, in-flight oxygen was recommended in 99 (58.2%) patients all of whom were recommended 2 l/min. A threshold of <7.55 Kpa on resting blood gas was 100% predictive for requirement of in-flight oxygen and a threshold of <8 kPa was 97.9% predictive. Incorporating the <7.55 kPa and <8 kPa thresholds into clinical practice by proceeding straight to 2 l oxygen could negate the need for HCT in 20.6% and 43.9% of cases respectively.

Conclusion HCT is a useful tool for assessing the need for in-flight oxygen in lung diseases but is a resource heavy test and requires multiple blood samples taken from patients. Our data suggests that there are lower-limit thresholds for resting PaO₂ beyond which HCT can be avoided in a significant proportion of patients.

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USING BIG DATA TO INVESTIGATE PHYSIOLOGY: RETENTION OF CO₂ DOES NOT IMPACT THE OXYGEN-HAEMOGLOBIN DISSOCIATION CURVE OF CRITICALLY ILL ADULTS

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Introduction Since its initial description in 1904, the oxygen-haemoglobin dissociation curve (ODC) has been well described under physiological conditions.^{1,2} However, the impact of pathology has been less well characterised, with most data arising from small clinical studies of anaesthetized adults/patients (<100 subjects), or experimentally-induced hypoxaemia/hypercapnia. Routinely collected clinical data, including arterial blood gas analyses, are now available from many thousands of critically ill patients. We sought to investigate the impact of pCO₂ on the ODC of critically ill adults, and hypothesised that pCO₂ would not significantly alter the relationship between pO₂ and haemoglobin saturation.

Methods Data was extracted from the National Institute for Health Research Critical Care Health Informatics Collaborative (NIHR ccHIC). Statistical analysis was undertaken on 3 99 000 blood gases from 13 942 patients, using R version 3.4.0. After data cleaning, the predicted oxygen saturation for each arterial blood gas sample was calculated using both the Severinghaus¹ and Dash, Kroman and Bassingthwaight² equations. Non-linear regression modelling was undertaken to construct ODCs based on both the predicted and observed data,