

Nasal High-flow versus non-invasive ventilation in stable hypercapnic COPD: a preliminary report.

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Abstract

Background: There are no data available about effectiveness of Nasal High-flow (NHF) in chronic respiratory insufficiency.

Methods: Eleven COPD patients with stable hypercapnia were adjusted to NHF-system with a flow of 20 l/min. After six weeks patients were switched to non-invasive ventilation (NIV) for another six weeks period.

Results: NHF led to significant decreases in resting pCO₂. Between the devices we found no differences in pCO₂ levels.

Conclusions: NHF may thus be an alternative treatment device in stable hypercapnic COPD patients.