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Title: Distinguishing pulmonary hypertension in interstitial lung disease by ventilation and perfusion defects as measured by cardiopulmonary exercise testing

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Body: Introduction: Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is common in interstitial lung disease (ILD) and is associated with worse prognosis. Comparing ventilation (VD) and perfusion defects (PD) on cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET) can detect PH, but has not been assessed in ILD. Aims and Objectives: We proposed using CPET to detect PH in patients with ILD by assessment of VD and PD by mixed expired CO2 (PeCO2) and end-tidal CO2 (PetCO2). Methods: 75 patients with ILD referred for CPET were included who had pulmonary function tests, right heart catheterization, CPET all done within 4 months of each other. Data were assessed at rest, end of unloaded warm up (WU), ventilatory threshold (VT), and peak exercise (PE) for PeCO2, PetCO2, PeCO2/PetCO2 and the activity pattern of PeCO2 versus PetCO2. Results: ILD patients with PH demonstrated significantly lower PetCO2 and PeCO2 at all levels of exercise and low PeCO2/PetCO2 only at WU.

VD and PD in CPET in ILD patients

		PetCO2(mmHg)	PeCO2(mmHg)	PetCO2/PetCO2
Rest	PH	30.3	16.1	0.54
	No PH	35.7*	18.0*	0.51
WU	PH	29.9	17.9	0.61
	No PH	36.5*	20.7*	0.57*
VT	PH	32.7	19.1	0.61
	No PH	37.2*	22.7*	0.61
PE	PH	28.5	18.5	0.66
	No PH	37.9*	23.3*	0.62

^{*} p<0.05

Activity pattern has marked changes with exercise in ILD patients with PH.

Conclusions: Evaluation of ventilation and perfusion defects by CPET can detect pulmonary hypertension in patients with ILD.