

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

Abstract Number: 1404
Publication Number: P1178

Abstract Group: 9.2. Physiotherapists

Keyword 1: Physiotherapy care **Keyword 2:** Quality of life **Keyword 3:** Respiratory muscle

Title: Patient experience of an airway clearance technique in a UK university hospital setting

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Body: Introduction To gain insight into patient experiences using an airway clearance technique in a heterogeneous patient group with neuromuscular disease. The lung volume recruitment bag(LVR)utilises positive pressure to augment inspiratory volume and increase cough strength. Method Patients responded to a telephone questionnaire carried out by university members. Our study group was 8 patients aged 21-79 with either SMA, muscular dystrophy, motor neuron disease or spinal cord lesions. All patients had received a LVR bag within the past year and had been taught how to use it by a respiratory physiotherapist. Results

Patient experience of LVR bag

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree
The bag is easy to use	4	3	1	0	0
I understood the verbal instructions I was given about the bag	5	2	1	0	0
I understood the written instructions I was given about the bag	2	2	4	0	0
I can clear my phlegm more easily since I have been using the bag	3	3	2	0	0
I am able to take a deeper breath when I use the bag	5	1	1	1	0
I have had fewer chest infections since I have been using the bag	1	0	6	1	0
I am less frightened of choking since I have been using the bag	3	1	4	0	0

n=8

Discussion To our knowledge this is the first report of patient satisfaction using the innovative LVR bag. 6/8

patients were able to clear sputum more easily after using the LVR bag. 7/8 patients found the verbal instructions easy to follow and strongly agreed/agreed that the bag was easy to use. In 7/8 patients, the technique required the assistance of a carer. Our study shows the LVR bag is easy to use and aids patient sputum clearance. Therefore, this technique warrants further investigation in a larger population with a wider range of conditions.