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Title: Physiological responses to the 6-min walk test and incremental shuttle walk test in adults with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis

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Body: Introduction: To our knowledge, there have been no previous studies on physiological adaptations during field walking tests in adults with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis (nCF-BCt). Objective: To compare metabolic and cardiopulmonary responses during the 6-min walk test (6MWT) and the incremental shuttle walk test (ISWT) in patients with nCF-BCt. Methods: Twenty-one subjects (13 male; 45 ± 12 yrs; FEV1 % pred: 57 ± 7 ; MRC: 2 ± 1) were included. The subjects were randomized to perform two 6MWTs (30 min apart) and two ISWTs (30 min apart), on different days. The test with the best performance (greater distance) was used for comparison. During the tests, pulmonary gas exchange was measured (VO2000; Medical Graphics Corporation, St. Paul, MN). Results: See Table 1.

Table 1. Variables at the peak of 6MWT and ISWT.

	6MWT	ISWT
Distance, m	561 ± 67	485 ± 97*
Duration, min	6 ± 0	7.4 ± 1*
VO2, L (% pred)	1.43 ± 0.45 (83 ± 28)	1.46 ± 0.45 (84 ± 22)
VCO2, L	1.89 ± 0.65	1.91 ± 0.71
VE, L/min	34 ± 9.1	34 ± 9.5
HR, bpm (% pred)	144 ± 17 (82 ± 12)	140 ± 17 (80 ± 9)
SpO2, %	91 ± 4	91 ± 6

Dyspnea	4.6 ± 2.2	4.7 ± 2.4
Leg fatigue	4.7 ± 2.3	4.9 ± 2.0

^{*}P < 0,05

Conclusion: Although subjects walked a greater distance in the 6MWT, both tests elicited similar physiological responses at peak exercise.