

Surf Report... November, 2004

Surfing around the web, all things respiratory...



Dear Readers,

Yet another report from up North in sunny (seldom rainy) Queensland. With preparing for this report came the realization of what this column is becoming. Who's heard of a "Blog" or indeed a "Blogger"? Blog which means WeB LOG is defined by [Matisse's Glossary of Internet Terms](#) as:-

"A blog is basically a journal that is available on the web. The activity of updating a blog is "blogging" and someone who keeps a blog is a "blogger." Blogs are typically updated daily using software that allows people with little or no technical background to update and maintain the blog.

Postings on a blog are almost always arranged in chronological order with the most recent additions featured most prominently."

So armed with this I took to the surf on my eMac. The best example I could find, (*not being our own, Kevin*) is a site called the [Science Blog](#). There is a recent [article](#) posted there that could be in our library page this month, namely "Respiratory therapists twice as likely to have asthma than other therapists". Begs the question, is there increased risk for us in our jobs?

On the bulletin boards discussions have been varied. I have posted a poll on the RespiratoryScience_Australasia yahoo group, and the findings are being reported at the time of publication. It seemed timely to do this last month, since it was [Infection Control Week](#) (Oct 18-24) Members were surveyed on how they reprocess breathing circuits following use, and when. The responses have varied from what the current "Aust. Govt. Dept. Health and Ageing, Infection Control Guidelines" actually state. Caution it is a big [document](#) (3.3MB), but we are in there on page 144. How do you compare to these current guidelines?

Within the group discussion has started on the [reference values for Canadians](#), recently published by our Canadian colleagues. It costs to obtain this article, but if interested you can [buy](#) it over the internet. If you wish to subscribe to the RespiratoryScience_Australasia yahoo group, then look up the membership guidelines in the past Surf Reports, or send me an email.

A new [Bulletin Board](#) run by the [Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists](#) (*The Canadians are a friendly bunch. They welcomed me openly into their Bulletin Board, unlike the ARTP, our esteemed fellow colleagues of the UK.*), has recently included discussion of a new disposable spacer device called the [Lite Aire](#). The talk has been promising, and the device does have [FDA](#) approval. On the [Thayer Medical](#) website they make the claim that the Lite Aire "reduces possibility of cross-contamination in pulmonary function labs." There is a local agent [Niche Medical](#), but Craig tells me that they do not have plans to market this in Australia. This seems a great shame as I believe these great little spacers have a role for us in our Labs.

There is a mathematical model called the [Fibonacci Function](#) which uncannily looks like our airway structure. The [function](#) is beyond my understanding, but if you are interested, check it out! All credit goes to [Wolfram Research](#), with the development of the [Mathematica](#) software.

That's enough from me. You won't see my next blog until after the New Year, so have a joyous and safe Festive Season, with those whom you love.

Happy surfing...

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