

Surf Report...

September 2003

Dear fellow surfers,

The RespiratoryScience-Australasia Yahoo Group, has a few "proactive workers" (See [August Surf Report](#)) who have made recent input.

One member has contributed a valuable link. He wrote:-

"Group members may be interested in the "Respiratory Care Journal" the official Journal of the American Association for Respiratory Care. This is available monthly on-line. The August issue includes papers from the "18th Annual New Horizons Symposium. Pulmonary Function Testing: Updates and Answers". Articles on Standards & Interpretive Issues, Spirometry, Diffusing Capacity and the 6 minute Walk Test are included. The RCJ is available at..."
<http://www.rcjournal.com>

Also discussion continues into how to get results networked around campuses easily from the Vmax platform. No easy answers there as yet!

If you wish to join this Yahoo Group then send a blank email to RespiratoryScience-Australasia-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Recently I was perusing the [Cochrane Library](#), which is free to users in organisations or countries with registered computer "IP addresses". Hopefully this means you! Use the "log on anonymously" button and it should let you in. For those who don't know, the Cochrane Library is a repository of evidence based medicine, and includes Randomised Controlled Trials and Meta-Analyses of collected trials.

In the Cochrane Library, I found a reference worth persuing. It was from the [Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research](#) entitled "[Effectiveness of spirometry and forced oscillation technique in the diagnosis of childhood asthma - January 2002](#)"

Although this article is now nearly two years old, it is quite unique in that it is an analysis comparing two available diagnostic techniques from the currently published evidence. I think this is one of a kind. Correct me if I am wrong! If valuable and often scarce dollars are to be spent on equipment, this is the sort of approach that needs to be, or should be taken. I'll be using this document myself in pushing for the forced oscillation technology.

There have been some interesting discussions this month on the Respiratory Care Professionals World Forum at [RC World](#). Of interest to me was discussion on the variability of FEF25-75, and the long forgotten parameter IsoFEF25-75%, under the heading of Forced Oscillation! It's worth taking a look.

Don't forget that contributions are always welcome to this column. My view is that we all own it.

Happy surfing...

Andrew Coates, CRFS
ancoates@mater.org.au