



High frequency percussive ventilation (HFPV). Principles and technique.

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In recent years, the usefulness of high frequency ventilation (HFV) has been clinically reassessed as an alternative to conventional mechanical ventilation (CMV). HFV has often been combined with or in some cases even completely replaced CMV in the attempt to reduce iatrogenic injury. High frequency percussive ventilation (HFPV) is a specific mode of HFV that has been successfully applied in the treatment of acute respiratory failure after smoke inhalation; it has also been more widely used in pediatric than in adult patients. This article gives an introduction to and a description of the basic principles of HFPV, a mode of ventilation which we found particularly versatile and reliable in our preliminary clinical experience with the maneuver.

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