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# ASTHMA... CAUSE OF MORTALITY SINCE 400 B.C.

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## OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the incidence of asthma and asthma-related deaths
- Discuss brief history of asthma care
- Describe current literature and treatment options for severe asthma
- Analyze clinical indications of fatal asthma risk
  - Unusual case of severe refractory asthma

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# Asthma Defined

Heterogenous disease, usually characterized by chronic **airway inflammation** (usually associated with airway **hyperresponsiveness**), defined by the history of respiratory symptoms: **wheeze, SOB, chest tightness, and cough** that may vary over time and in intensity, together with *variable expiratory flow limitation*\*

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\*Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) Main Report 2022

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# Asthma Defined

common **chronic** disorder of the airways  
that is **complex** and characterized by  
variable and recurring symptoms, airflow  
obstruction, bronchial  
hyperresponsiveness, and an underlying  
inflammation\*

\*NHLBI, NAEPP, 2007

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## REPORTS

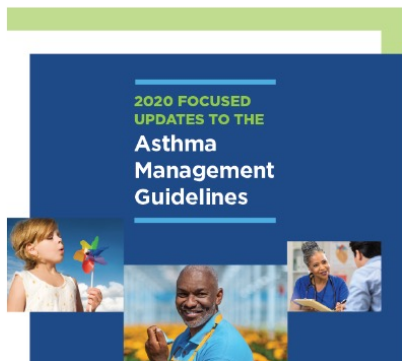
The *Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention* incorporates new scientific information about asthma based on a review of recent scientific literature by an international panel of experts on the GINA Science Committee. This comprehensive and practical resource about one of the most common chronic lung diseases worldwide contains extensive citations from the scientific literature and forms the basis for other GINA documents and programs.

[2022 GINA MAIN REPORT](#)[2022 GINA POCKET GUIDE](#)[2022 GINA APPENDIX](#)[WHAT'S NEW IN 2022 – SLIDE SET](#)

# GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR ASTHMA MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION

Updated 2022

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NHLBI PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

## 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group

DOWNLOAD

PDF



A Report from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

# Asthma Myths:

Asthma “*goes away*”

Asthma is “*not that bad*” ...it’s mostly  
psychosomatic

Mild cases of asthma are simply a nuisance

Albuterol is always the solution

# History of Asthma

***aazein*** - “to pant”, “to exhale with open mouth, sharp breath”

***Corpus Hippocraticum*** (460 – 360 BC)

- *asthma* first used as a medical term

**Aretaeus of Cappadocia** (100 AD)

- first clinical description of asthma

**Galen** (130-200 AD)



- description of asthma as “bronchial obstructions”

# Ebers Papyrus (c. 1500 BC)



THE  
PAPYRUS EBERS

Translated from the German Version

By  
CYRIL P. BRYAN

M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

*Demonstrator in Anatomy, University College, London*

With an Introduction by  
PROFESSOR G. ELLIOT SMITH

M.D., D.SC., LITT.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

*Professor of Anatomy, University College, London*

**A mixture of herbs heated on a brick so that  
the sufferer could inhale their fumes.**

GEOFFREY BLES  
22 SUFFOLK STREET, PALL MALL  
LONDON, S.W.1

Atropine.

Alcohol: in combination with amyl nitrite in spasmodic asthma.

Ammonia Vapor.

Anesthetics: as a temporary remedy in severe cases.

Arsenic: in small doses in cases associated with bronchitis or simulating hay fever, or in the bronchitis of children, or in the dyspeptic asthma. Inhaled as cigarettes with caution.

Caffeine: 1 to 5 grn.

Cannabis Indica: sometimes useful in chronic cases.

Chloroform: relieves when inhaled from tumbler or with warm water.

Cocaine.

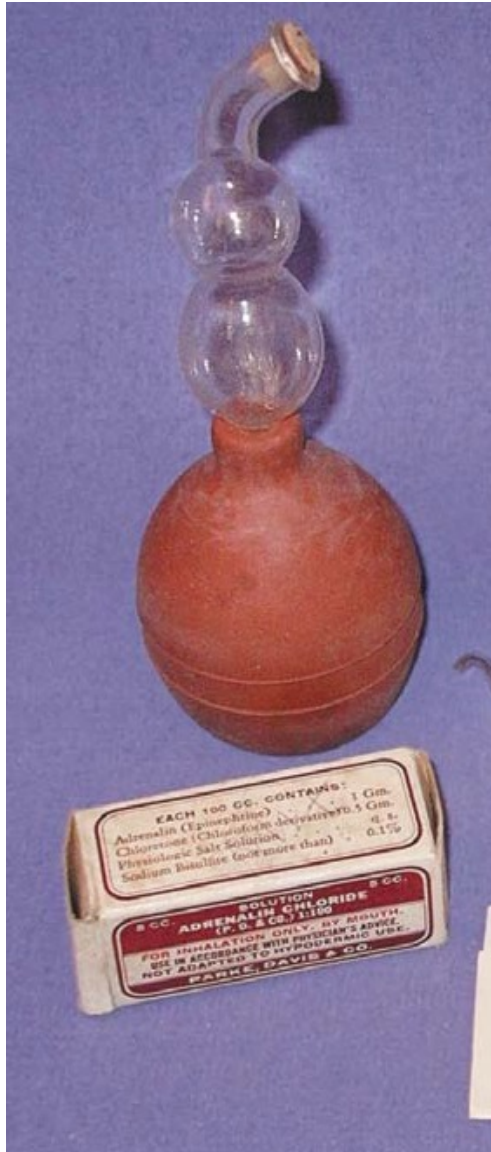
Coffee: very strong, during paroxysm.

Tobacco: smoking is sometimes beneficial.

Morphine: combined with belladonna, very useful.

Nitroglycerin: in bronchitic, nephritic and spasmodic asthma.





**Primatene<sup>®</sup>**  
**MIST**  
Epinephrine Inhalation Aerosol  
0.125 mg per spray  
Bronchodilator  
For Oral  
Inhalation Only

**For TEMPORARY relief  
of MILD symptoms  
of INTERMITTENT asthma**

Suspension:  
**Shake then Spray**  
into the air before  
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**NEW FORMULATION:**  
See Important Usage  
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160 Metered Sprays  
Net Weight: 11.7g



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

20<sup>th</sup> NEJM ANNIVERSARY ARTICLE

# A Patient with Asthma Seeks Medical Advice in 1828, 1928, and 2012

Erika von Mutius, M.D., and Jeffrey M. Drazen, M.D.

*N Engl J Med* 2012; 366(9)



**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

# Morbidity & Mortality

> 8% of the US population has **asthma**<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CDC, US DHH (2011)

<sup>2</sup>Schiller et al.; National Health Interview Survey (2011)



# **Asthma control in the United States, 2008-2010: Indicators of poor asthma control**

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Julia F. Slejko, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Vahram H. Ghushchyan, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Brandon Sucher, PharmD, CDE, AE-C,<sup>c</sup> Denise R. Globe, PhD,<sup>d\*</sup> Shao-Lee Lin, MD, PhD,<sup>d‡</sup> Gary Globe, PhD, MBA,<sup>d</sup> and Patrick W. Sullivan, PhD<sup>c</sup> *Seattle, Wash, Yerevan, Armenia, Denver, Colo, and Thousand Oaks, Calif*

N = 102,544

4.8% self-reported asthma exacerbation in last 1 year  
28% had never used long-term control medication

# **Coexisting chronic conditions associated with mortality and morbidity in adult patients with asthma**

**Kaharu Sumino, MD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>, Katuscia O'Brian, MA<sup>1,2</sup>, Brian Bartle, MPH<sup>3</sup>, David H. Au, MD, MS<sup>4,5</sup>, Mario Castro, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>, and Todd A. Lee, PharmD, PhD<sup>6</sup>**

**N = 25,975**

**13 most prevalent comorbidities:**

**hypertension, IHD, osteoarthritis, RA, DM, mental disorders, substance/drug abuse, enlarged prostate, depression, CA, EtOH, HIV, heart failure; sleep apnea, GERD, rhinitis, sinusitis**

# American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine

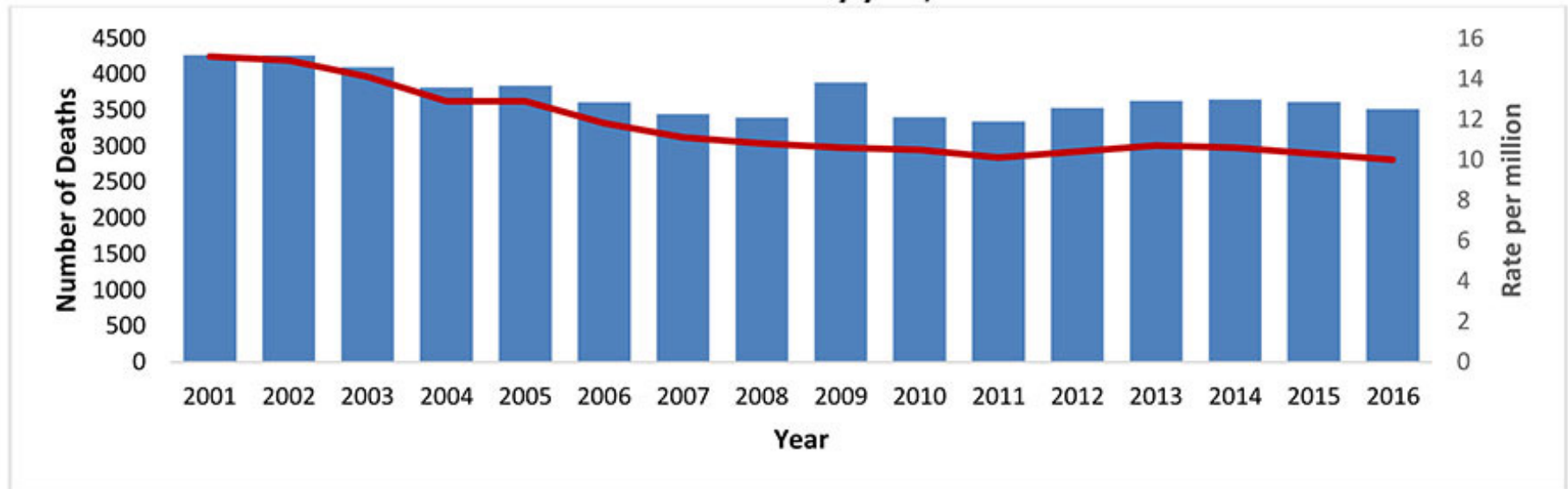
## U.S. Health Care Spending on Respiratory Diseases, 1996-2016

Kevin I Duan , Maxwell Birger , David H Au , Laura J Spece , Laura C Feemster ; Joseph L Dieleman



# Asthma deaths have **decreased** over time

Number and rate of asthma deaths by year, United States: 2001-2016



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

# How Many People Die From Asthma?

- On average, 11 people in the U.S. die from asthma each day. In 2020, 4,145 people died from asthma. Nearly all of these deaths are avoidable with the right treatment and care.<sup>8</sup>
  - In 2020, deaths due to asthma rose for the first time in 20 years.<sup>8</sup>
- Adults are five times more likely to die from asthma than children.<sup>8</sup>
- Female adults are more likely to die from asthma than male adults, and male children are more likely than female children.<sup>8</sup>
- Black people in the U.S. are nearly three times more likely to die from asthma than white people in the U.S.<sup>8</sup>
- When sex is factored in, Black females have the highest rate of fatality due to asthma. In 2020, Black females were nearly four times more likely to die from asthma than white males.<sup>8</sup>



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**2020 FOCUSED  
UPDATES TO THE**

# Asthma Management Guidelines

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**A Report from the National  
Asthma Education and Prevention  
Program Coordinating Committee  
Expert Panel Working Group**



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

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## Prior Recommendations of **Asthma** Treatment

- SABA
- ICS
  - Low, Med, High
- Alternative Rx
  - Leukotriene receptor antagonist,  
Theophylline, Monoclonal antibody

*Environmental control*

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A photograph of a man with short dark hair and blue eyes, wearing a white t-shirt. He is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression, his right hand resting on his head. A black banner with white and green text is overlaid on the image.

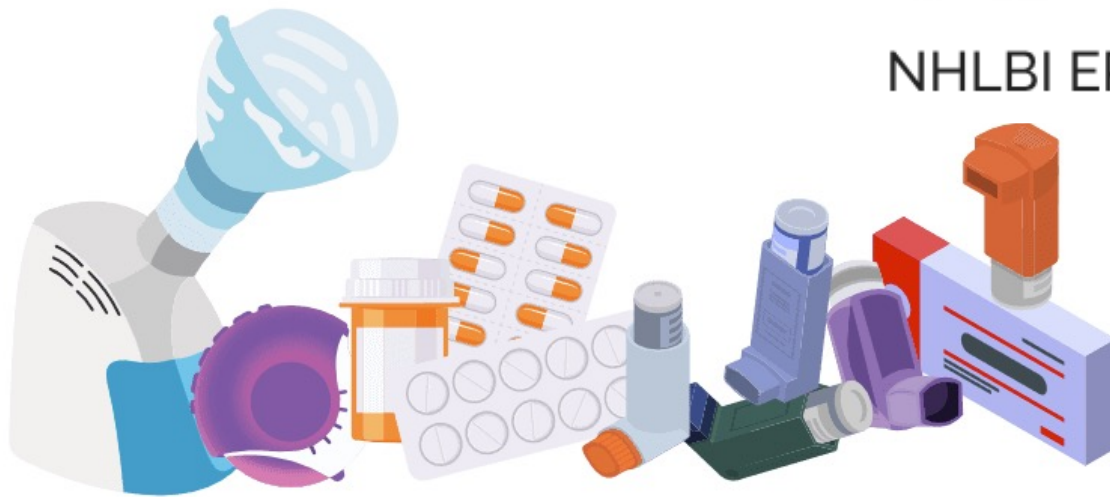
Current Recommendations  
of Asthma Treatment

**Figure I.d:** Stepwise Approach for Management of Asthma in Individuals Ages 12 Years and Older

	Intermittent Asthma	Management of Persistent Asthma in Individuals Ages 12+ Years				
Treatment	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6 <sup>■</sup>
<b>Preferred</b>	PRN SABA	Daily low-dose ICS and PRN SABA or PRN concomitant ICS and SABA <sup>▲</sup>	Daily and PRN combination low-dose ICS-formoterol <sup>▲</sup>	Daily and PRN combination medium-dose ICS-formoterol <sup>▲</sup>	Daily medium-high dose ICS-LABA + LAMA and PRN SABA <sup>▲</sup>	Daily high-dose ICS-LABA + oral systemic corticosteroids + PRN SABA
<b>Alternative</b>		Daily LTRA* and PRN SABA or Cromolyn,* or Nedocromil,* or Zileuton,* or Theophylline,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS and PRN SABA or Daily low-dose ICS-LABA, or daily low-dose ICS + LAMA, <sup>▲</sup> or daily low-dose ICS + LTRA,* and PRN SABA or Daily low-dose ICS + Theophylline* or Zileuton,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-dose ICS-LABA or daily medium-dose ICS + LAMA, and PRN SABA <sup>▲</sup> or Daily medium-dose ICS + LTRA,* or daily medium-dose ICS + Theophylline,* or daily medium-dose ICS + Zileuton,* and PRN SABA	Daily medium-high dose ICS-LABA or daily high-dose ICS + LTRA,* and PRN SABA	
		Steps 2-4: Conditionally recommend the use of subcutaneous immunotherapy as an adjunct treatment to standard pharmacotherapy in individuals ≥ 5 years of age whose asthma is controlled at the initiation, build up, and maintenance phases of immunotherapy <sup>▲</sup>			Consider adding Asthma Biologics (e.g., anti-IgE, anti-IL5, anti-IL5R, anti-IL4/IL13)**	

- Intermittent inhaled steroids
- Long-acting muscarinic antagonists
- Indoor allergy relief
- Immunotherapy in the treatment of allergic asthma
- Fractional exhaled nitrous oxide (FeNO) testing
- Bronchial thermoplasty

NHLBI EPR-4 Asthma Guidelines 2020



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## Current Recommendations of **Asthma** Treatment

- SABA
- Inhaled corticosteroids
  - Low, Med, High
- Oral systemic steroids prn
- Alternative Rx
  - Leukotriene receptor antagonist,  
Theophylline, Monoclonal antibody

*\*Environmental control*

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**Why Do Patients  
with Asthma Still  
Die?**



Let's look at a  
case study...

---

# 18 Year Old, Black Female

- 5'5", 80 kg (176 lbs)
  - Brought in via EMS on stretcher
    - 1 Albuterol treatment given *en route*
  - Upon arrival, Patient in remarkable distress
    - Unable to perform ROS; Patient unable to speak in complete sentences
  - Pmed Hx: Schizoaffective disorder, asthma, eczema, depression
-

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# Physical Exam

- BP: 105/47
  - HR: 120-140's
  - Temp: 92.5 °F (33.6 °C, rectal)
  - RR: 40's
  - SpO<sub>2</sub>: 70-90% (poor waveform)
  - Bilateral breath sounds: Diminished with faint wheezes
-

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# Initial Interventions

- 2 gm Magnesium Sulfate IV
- 125 mg Solumedrol IV
- Heliox started
- 10 mg Ketamine given

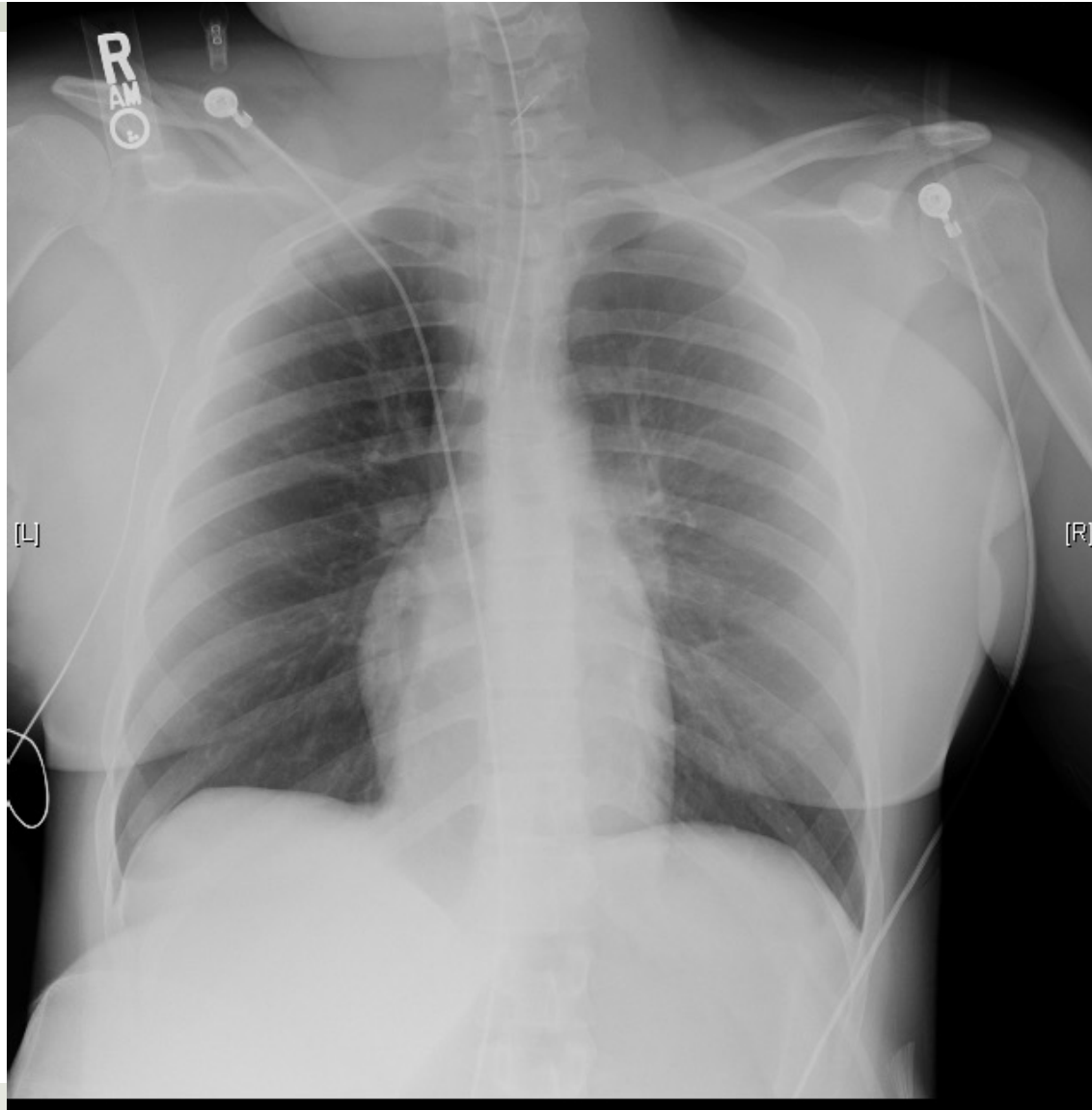
***NONE OF THE ABOVE HAD SIGNIFICANT  
CLINICAL EFFECT***

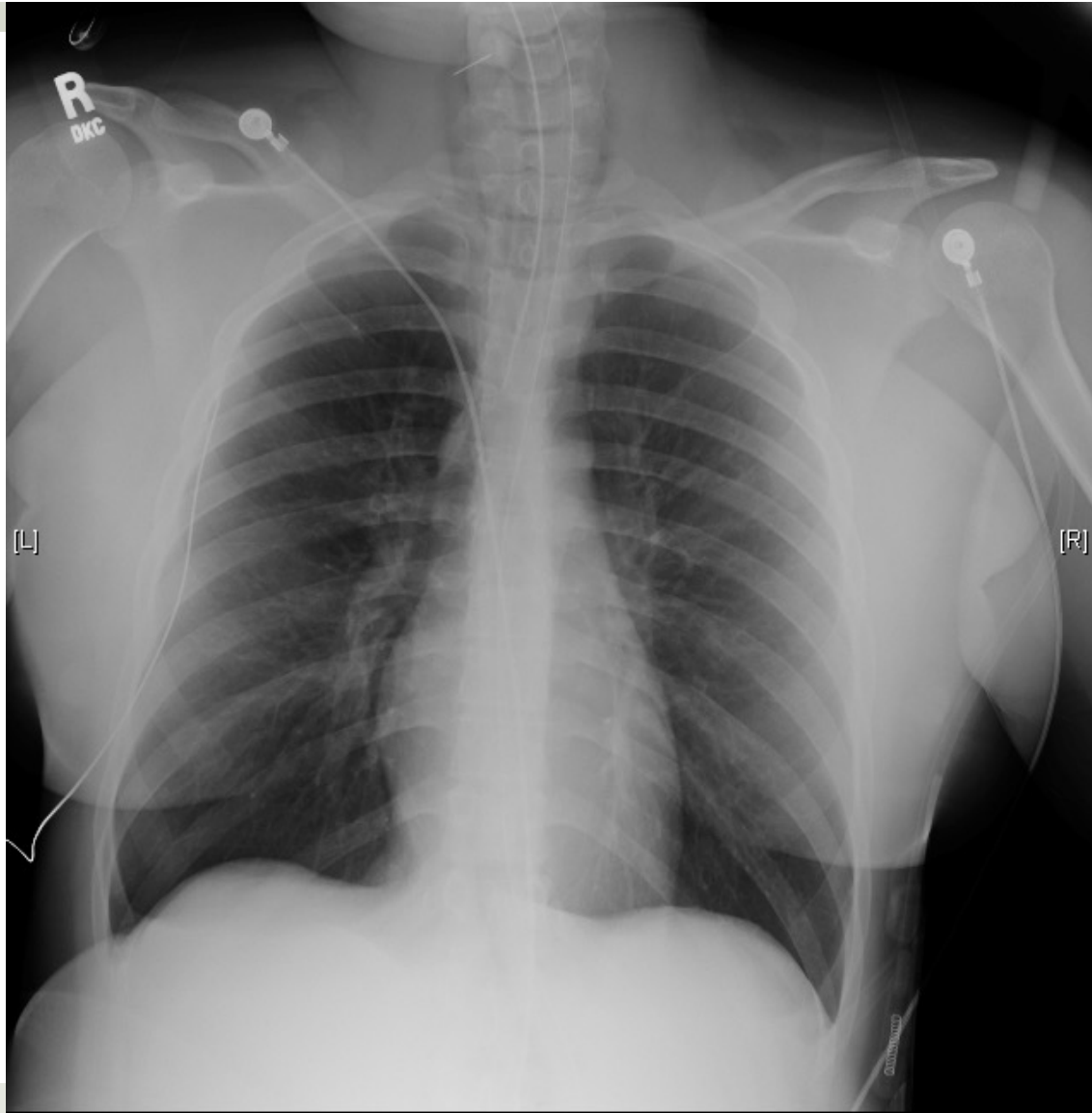
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## ***...Patient becomes apneic***

- Rapid sequence intubation performed
- Post-intubation difficulty bagging
- Patient becomes bradycardiac... then pulseless
- CPR started
  - return of pulse after 2 mins. CPR & 3<sup>rd</sup> dose Epi







---

## Post Intubation – Post Code

- ▣ Patient with sustained 'rebound' tachycardia & placed on PPV – **Propofol** for sedation
    - ▣ PRVC 350/12/.50/+5
  - ▣ SpO2 begins dropping; PIPs increasing
    - ▣ Disconnected/bagged with improvement noted
  - ▣ *New facial and neck edema noted*
  - ▣ Asymmetrical excursion of R chest
-

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a Warrick OETT inhaler and its packaging. The packaging is white with green accents and the Warrick logo. The inhaler is a small, cylindrical device with a black cap. The text is overlaid on a dark grey horizontal bar.

**20 mg Albuterol  
given down OETT**

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## Initial Post-Intubation, Post-Code ABG

pH: 6.74

PaCO<sub>2</sub>: 213

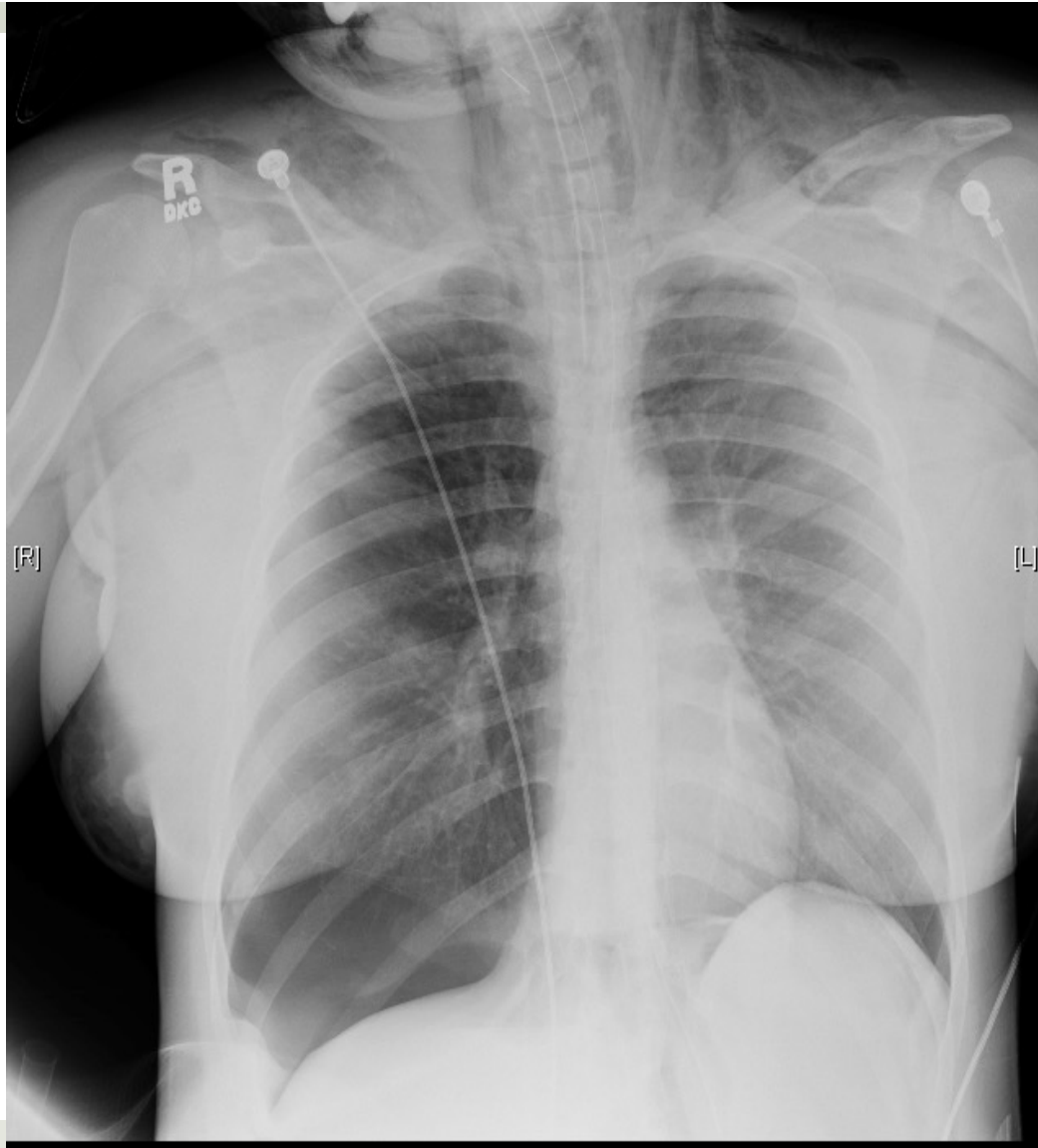
PaO<sub>2</sub>: 50

HCO<sub>3</sub>: 11.4

BE/D: 8.7

Lactate: 11.7

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## Complications continue...

- Patient with altered mental status
- Still unable to be ventilated via PPV

2<sup>nd</sup> ABG drawn

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> ABG

pH: 7.18

PaCO<sub>2</sub>: 80

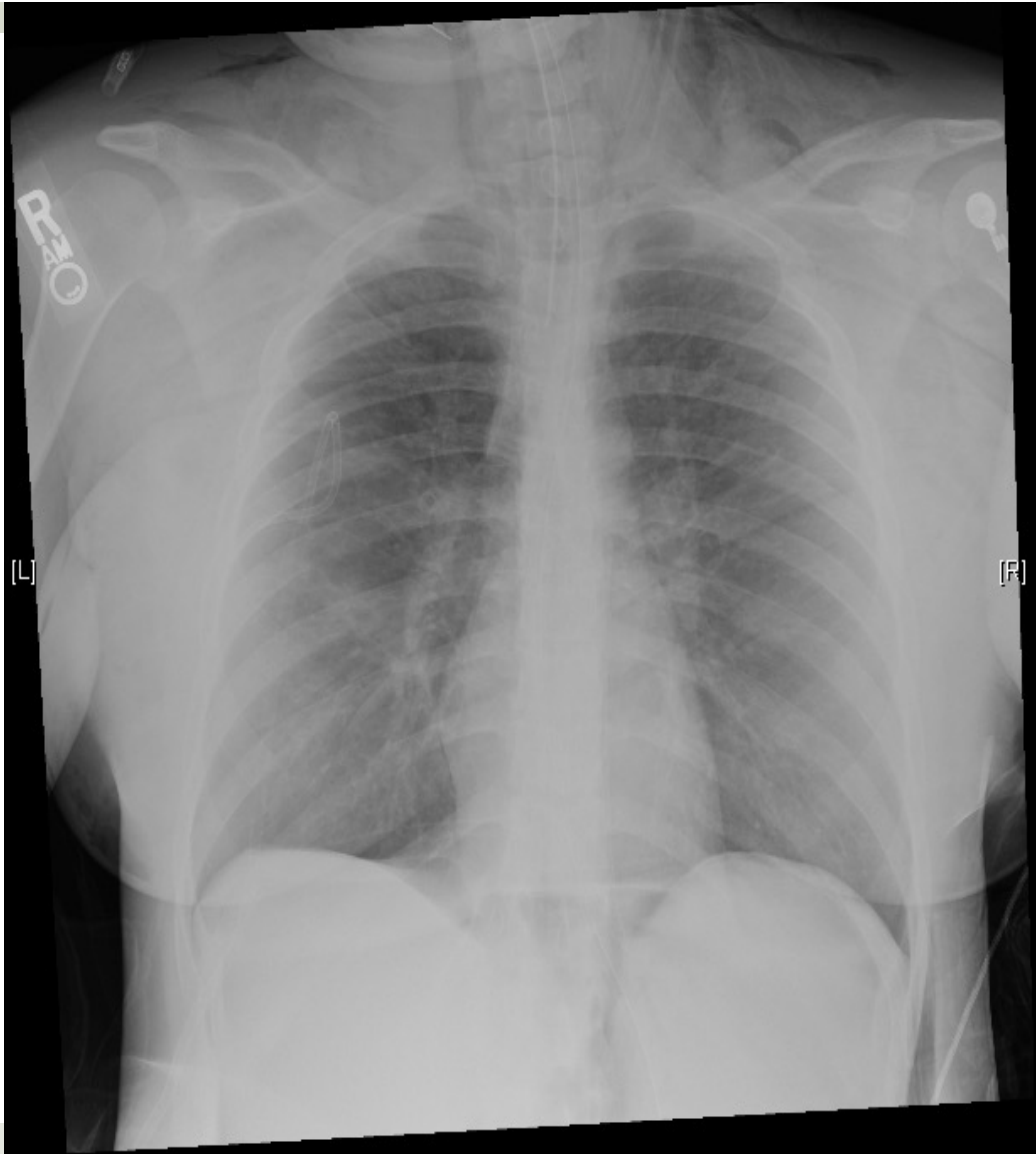
PaO<sub>2</sub>: 389

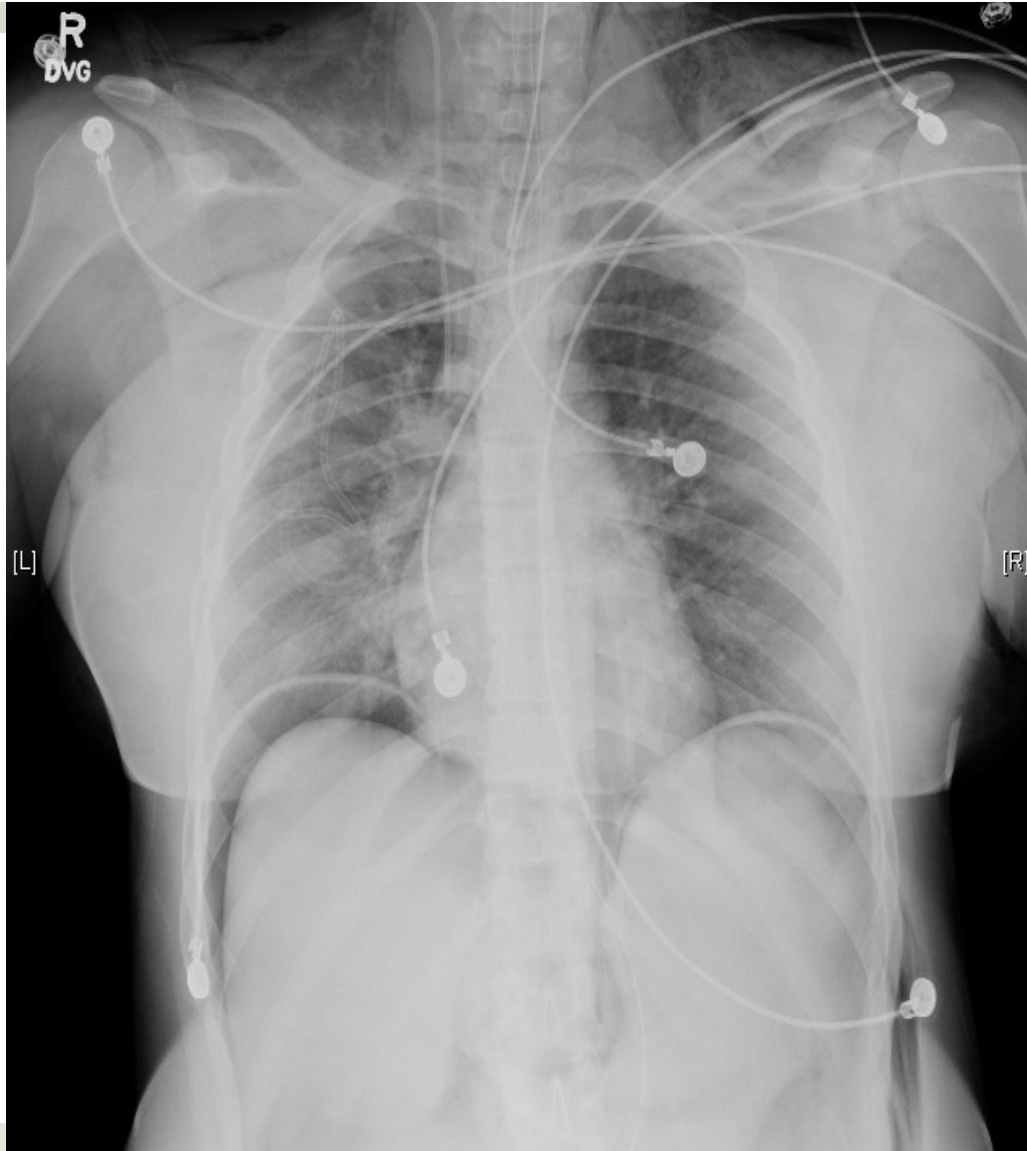
HCO<sub>3</sub>: 20.3

BE/D: 20.3

Lactate: 2.9

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> ABG

pH: 7.00

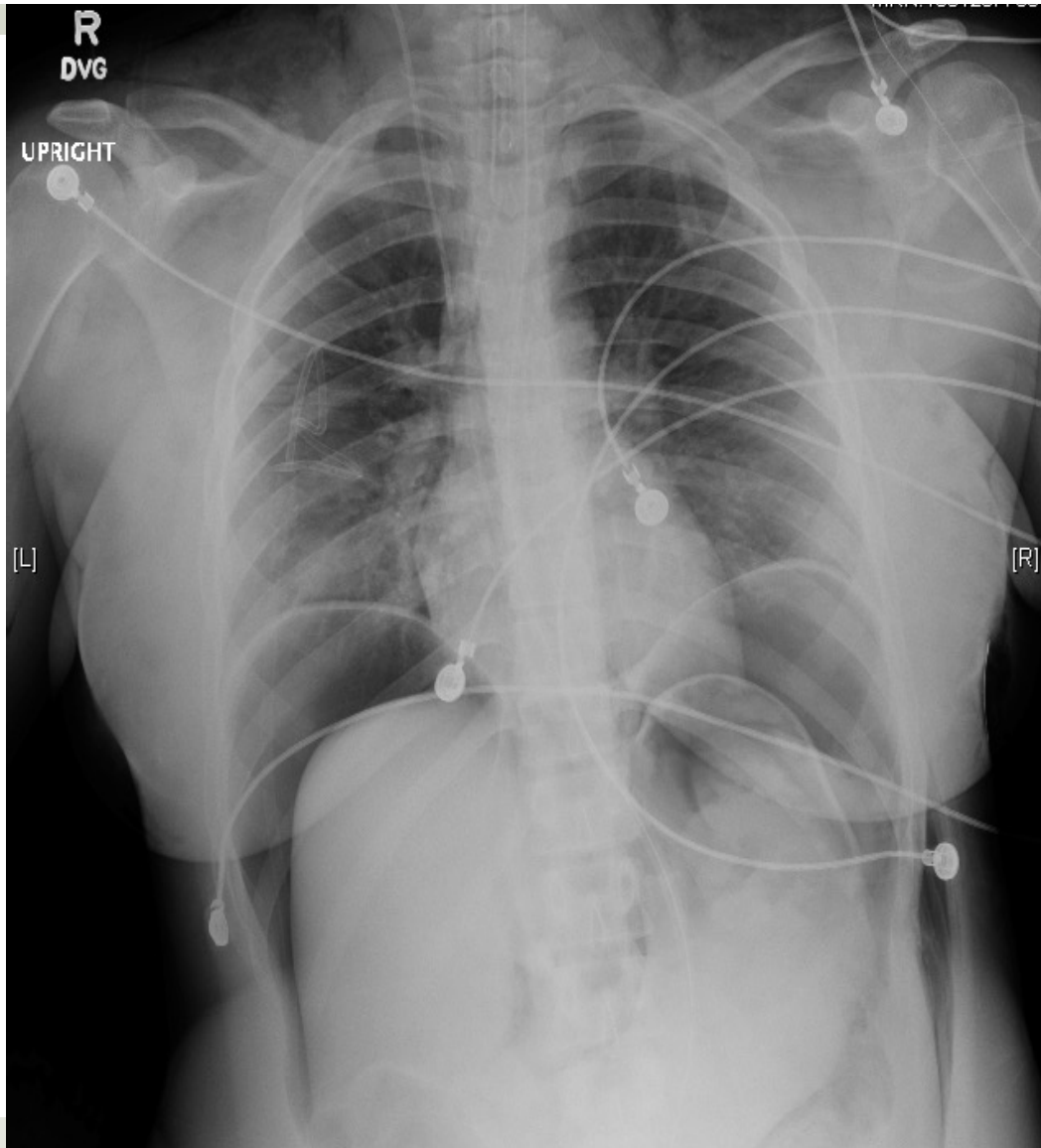
PaCO<sub>2</sub>: 130

PaO<sub>2</sub>: 102

HCO<sub>3</sub>: 19.5

BE/D: 0.3

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# Outcome

- Difficult to manage on PPV
  - Prolonged “reversal” time
  - Patient survived
    - Mild anoxic brain injury
  - Recovered at outlying rehab facility
-

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**25.2 Million Americans Have  
Asthma**

**Group with highest proportional  
prevalence:  
20-24 year olds**

**Females > Males  
Highest risk = Below poverty level**

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**Number of visits to ED with asthma  
as primary diagnosis: 1.6 million**

**Number of asthma-related deaths  
in 2020 = 4,145**

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“If you think about how healthcare is delivered, it’s on an ad hoc basis. Someone comes into a hospital, someone comes into a pharmacy, someone comes into a doctor. But beyond those touchpoints, the patients are on their own.

**Viehbacher – CEO, [Sanofi](#) [Harvard's First Forum on Healthcare Innovation Report]**

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**THE BEST 'TREATMENT' FOR  
ASTHMA?**

***PREVENTION OF  
EXACERBATION***

**FATAL ASTHMA**

SOLOMON R. BENATAR, M.B., CH.B., F.F.A. (S.A.), F.R.C.P. (LOND.)

ASTHMA has been recognized for more than 30 centuries,<sup>1</sup> but only in the past 50 years has death from the disease attracted much attention. Floyer re-

ported a "fatal asthma" of deaths among young persons with asthma was observed in the United Kingdom,<sup>10-12</sup> New Zealand,<sup>13</sup> Australia,<sup>14,15</sup> and to a much lesser extent, in the

- **Delay** in seeking medical assistance
- **No** history of **specialist care**
- History of **previous hospitalizations**
- High incidence of death **after recent hospitalization** for asthma
- At least 1 **ED visit** for asthma **in last 1 year**

**Why asthma still kills**  
The National Review  
of Asthma Deaths (NRAD)





## Identifying patients at risk for fatal asthma

**Authors:** J Mark Madison, MD, Richard S Irwin, MD

**Section Editor:** Monica Kraft, MD

**Deputy Editor:** Paul Dieffenbach, MD

Contributor Disclosures

All topics are updated as new evidence becomes available and our [peer review process](#) is complete.

Literature review current through: **Sep 2022**. | This topic last updated: **Aug 10, 2022**.



Most asthma-related deaths are preventable if risk factors are recognized and addressed early

Specific characteristics that would help the clinician predict which patients are predisposed to rapid-onset asthma attacks have not been identified

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UpToDate®

## Identifying patients at risk for fatal asthma

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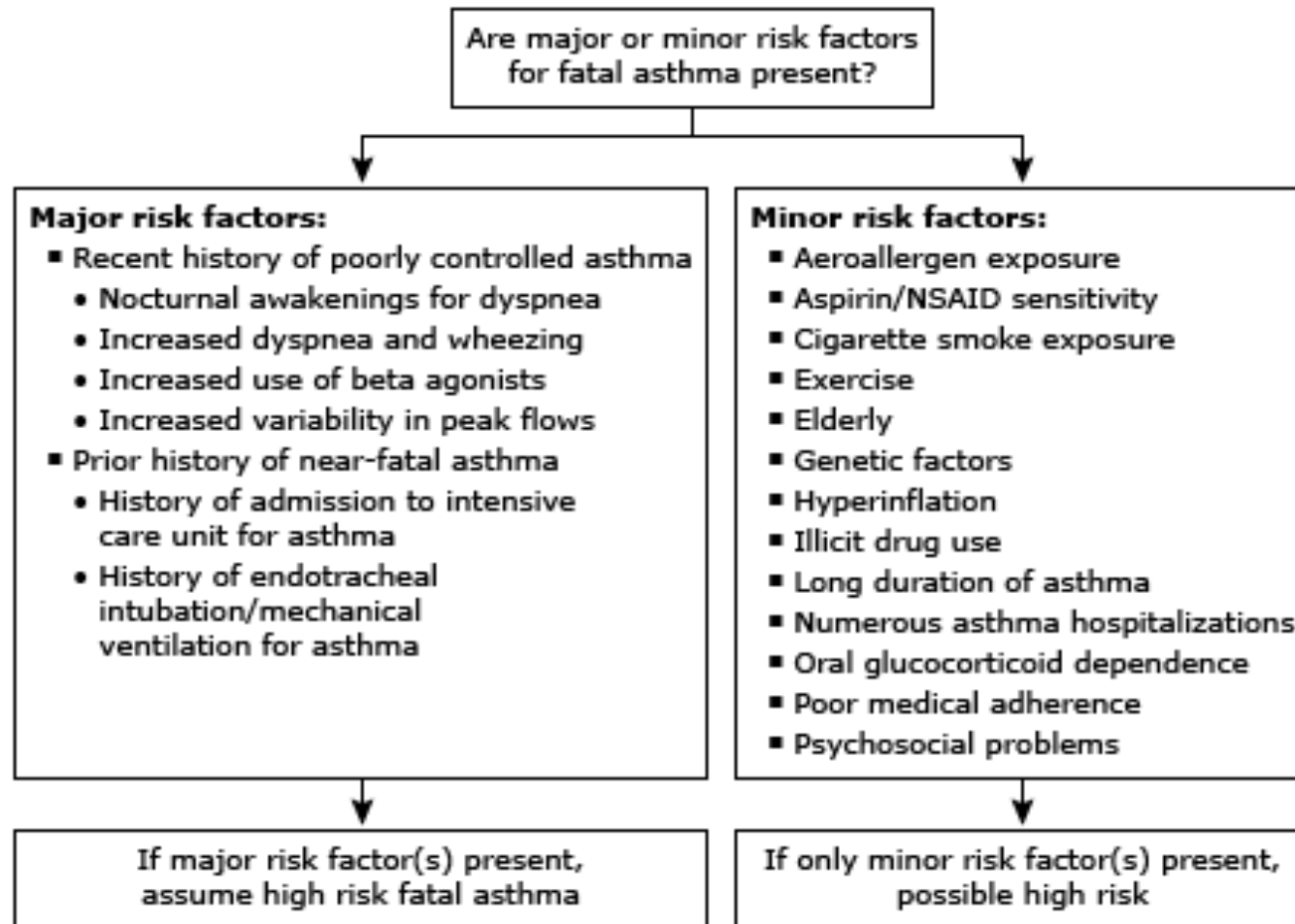
**Highest risk patients = Recent history of poorly controlled asthma**

**Highest risk patients = history of near-fatal asthma**

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## Assessing fatal asthma risk

UpToDate®





# EMERGING RESEARCH



## Comparing the Effect of Acute Moderate and Vigorous Exercise on Inflammation in Adults with Asthma: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Hayley A Scott, Lisa G Wood, Evan J Williams, Natasha Weaver, and John W. Upham

**Conclusions:** Exercise intensity modifies the acute inflammatory response to exercise in adults with asthma. While a bout of moderate exercise is associated with a reduction in eosinophilic airway inflammation, vigorous exercise has no effect on airway inflammation. Interestingly, the effects of moderate exercise vary by asthma phenotype, with greater anti-inflammatory effects in participants with eosinophilic asthma. Future studies should examine the impact of exercise training at different intensities on inflammation and clinical asthma outcomes.

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# ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY®

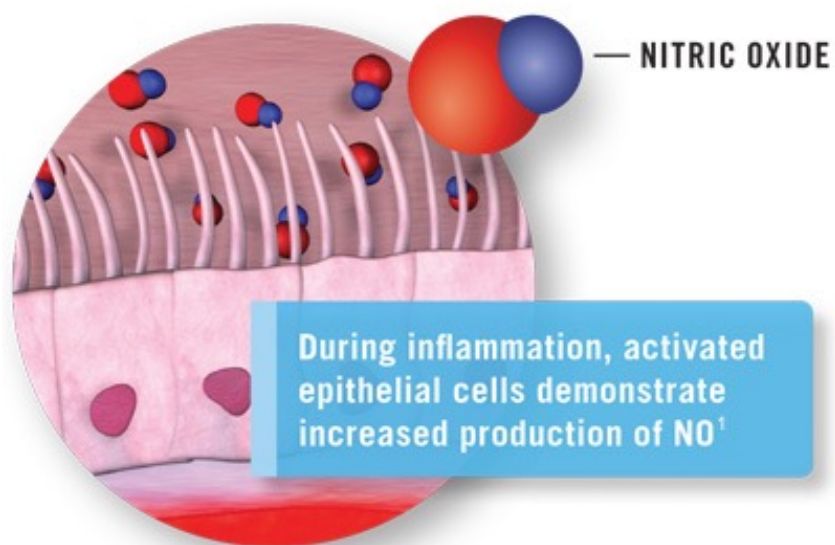
A journal dedicated to advancing care in respiratory diseases, sleep disorders,  
and critical illness

## **Breathing Exercises for Patients with Asthma in Specialist Care: A Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial**

Karen H. Andreasson, Søren T. Skou, Charlotte S. Ulrik, Hanne Madsen, Kirsten Sidenius, Karin D. Assing, Celeste Porsbjerg, Jannie Bloch-Nielsen, Mike Thomas, and Uffe Bodtger

## Use of Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide to Guide the Treatment of Asthma: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline

Sumita B Khatri, Jonathan M Iaccarino, Amisha Barochia, Israa Soghier, Praveen Akuthota, Anna Brady, Ronina A Covar, Jason S Debley, Zuzana Diamant, Anne M Fitzpatrick, David A Kaminsky, Nicholas J Kenyon, Sandhya Khurana, Brian J Lipworth, Kevin McCarthy, Michael Peters, Loretta G Que, Kristie R Ross, Elena K Schneider-Futschik, Christine A Sorkness, Teal S Hallstrand, American Thoracic Society Assembly on Allergy, Immunology, and Inflammation





## *ANNOUNCEMENT*

**SPACER** USE DECREASES  
PATIENT COORDINATION  
NEED AND **WILL ENHANCE**  
OVERALL **AEROSOL**  
MEDICATION **DELIVERY**

**THANKS FOR LISTENING!**



[Tim.Gilmore@lsuhs.edu](mailto:Tim.Gilmore@lsuhs.edu)