

## Indirect Bronchial Challenge Testing

**methapharm**  
Respiratory  
Focused on Every Breath

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## Disclaimer



I recognize that I must follow all guidelines and criteria regarding vested interest. I have the following real or perceived conflicts of interest that relate to this presentation:

I am an employee of Methapharm, Inc.

- Manufacturer and distributor of Provocholine®
- Distributor of Vivatmo pro

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## OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this presentation the attendee will be able to:

- Follow the diagnostic process of asthma and phenotype EIB
- Recognize the indications and contraindications for testing
- Identify the various types of indirect bronchial challenges
- Distinguish the patient who will benefit from an indirect bronchial challenge



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**Patient Presentation**




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I work, or have worked, in Pulmonary Function Testing.

A. True  
B. False



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**Patient Presentation**




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- 32 year old man comes to primary care physician complaining of chest tightness and wheezing intermittently, causing concerning shortness of breath
- Patient is active, runs 3-4 times a week and swims at least twice a week
- Ran track in high school and was on the swim team
- Works as a real estate agent currently



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**Question 1**



*Patient Presentation - Primary Care*




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First step(s) at the initial visit:

A) Gather detailed medical history  
B) Physical exam  
C) Spirometry  
D) All of the above

Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Full Report 2007 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

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**Case Study**  
*Initial work up*




Medical history and physical

- no Hx of asthma
- no Hx of heart disease

Vital Signs

- HR 70 at rest,
- RR 16 comfortable,
- BP 108/76 SaO2 96% on R/A
- Breath Sounds – clear and equal bilaterally



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Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2016; 52:1801053 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2016]

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**Diagnosing Asthma**  
*Guidelines - Expert Panel Report*



- Gather detailed medical history
- Physical exam
- Spirometry to demonstrate obstruction and assess reversibility
- Additional studies if necessary to rule out alternate diagnosis

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Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Full Report 2007 U.S. Department of Health and Human Service National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

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**Case Study**  
*Follow Up*



- Spirometry is inconclusive
- Patient is still experiencing symptoms that look like asthma
- Reports no chronic issues with breathing, can run and play sports without incident
- Upon further questioning patient reports he noticed the shortness of breath seemed to happen on the days he worked out, although he had no difficulty while working out

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**Question 2**  
Follow Up Steps



Now what should the doctor do?

- A) Chest x-ray
- B) CBC
- C) 6 min walk test
- D) Bronchoprovocation challenge



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Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Jousi G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J. 2018; 52:1801033  
<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2018>  
Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Full Report 2007J2.5  
Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

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**Diagnosing Asthma**  
Example Algorithm



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    graph TD
      A[Patient Presents With Symptoms] --> B[Take A Detailed History]
      B --> C[Perform Spirometry with Bronchodilator]
      C --> D{ }
      D -- NEGATIVE --> E[Bronchoprovocation Testing]
      D -- POSITIVE* --> F[Create Action Plan]
      E --> G{ }
      G -- NEGATIVE --> H[Further Tests Required or Retest When Asymptomatic]
      G -- POSITIVE --> F
      F --> I[Follow Up & Monitor For Full Control]
      I --> J[Full Re-Assessment Every 1-2 years or at Loss of Control]
  
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\*Spontaneous with bronchodilator diagnostic criteria (FEV1 increase of ≥ 12% and ≥ 200 mL, post-bronchodilator)

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**What is a Bronchial Challenge?**



Stimulation of the airway by either a direct stimulus or an indirect stimulus to cause the airways to show an onset of hyperreactivity as seen in asthma.



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Respiratory

Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Jousi G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J. 2018; 52:1801033  
<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2018>

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### Types of Bronchial Challenge Tests



| Direct  | Indirect  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methacholine Challenge</li> <li>• Histamine</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperpnea</li> <li>• Cold Air</li> <li>• Mannitol</li> <li>• Hypertonic Saline</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Diagnostic Purpose:</b><br/>To rule <b>out</b> asthma</p>                                 | <p><b>Diagnostic Purpose:</b><br/>To rule <b>in</b> asthma</p>  |



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### Direct or Indirect Challenge

#### Comparing Tests




Direct stimuli act directly on the bronchial smooth muscle to cause bronchoconstriction in susceptible individuals (i.e. methacholine)

Indirect stimuli (via the release of inflammatory mediators act indirectly) to cause bronchoconstriction in susceptible individuals (i.e. Exercise Challenge, EVH, mannitol)



Bronchoconstriction is measured by performing spirometry to measure lung function (FEV<sub>1</sub>)



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### Value of Indirect Challenge Testing




1. High specificity
2. Confirms AHR (as seen in asthma)
3. Helps to define if symptoms represent EIB, rather than dysfunctional breathing or airflow obstruction
4. Assists in evaluating potential responsiveness to ICS



Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018

Brannan JD and Lougheed D. Airway hyperresponsiveness in asthma: mechanisms, clinical significance and treatment. Frontiers in Physiology 2012 Vol 3



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### ATS Guideline Recommendations



- The diagnosis of EIB is established by changes in lung function provided by exercise, not on the basis of symptoms alone.
- Serial lung function measurements after a specific exercise or hyperpnea challenge are used to determine if EIB is present and to quantify the severity of the disorder.

**methapharm** Respiratory  
Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013

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### Question 3



**Mechanism of Action**

Indirect challenges cause increased fluid osmolarity in the airways in everyone regardless of diagnosis of asthma.

A) True  
 B) False

**methapharm** Respiratory  
Hallstrand TS, Leppel JD, Irons G, et al. 585 technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2016; 47:1601019 | <http://dx.doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01019-2016>

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### Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction



**Formerly Exercise-Induced Asthma**

- Narrowing of the airways causing asthma like symptoms after exercise
- Symptoms typically present 15 minutes after exercise and self resolves within 60 min



**methapharm** Respiratory  
Smolige, James M., Prava Wall, Kenneth W. Bushnell. Exercise induced bronchoconstriction in adults: evidence based diagnosis and management. BMJ 2010;340:b0195. doi: 10.1136/bmj.b0195 (Published 13 January 2010)  
GINA-3. Expert panel report 3: Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Asthma (2012-2017). Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Asthma Education and Prevention Program. 2012.

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## EIB is an Asthma Phenotype



Clinical Symptoms:

- Chest tightness
- Cough
- Wheezing
- Dyspnea



EIB is commonly misdiagnosed because its symptoms are neither sensitive nor specific

**methapharm** Respiratory

Weller, John M et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update 2016. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology

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## EIB Prevalence

### Among Athletes



EIB is common in athletes of all levels

- Competitive and recreational athletes
- Elite Athletes
  - 0-61% reported, varies on sport and environment, eg skaters and cross-country skiers, swimmers
- Typically higher in female athletes



**methapharm** Respiratory

Weller, John M et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update 2016. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology

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## EIB Prevalence

### General Population




Children

- 10-20%
- Shown to be more prevalent in girls vs boys
- Higher in urban settings than rural

Adults

- 19.4% shown to have EIB without a history of asthma



**methapharm** Respiratory

Weller, John M et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update 2016. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology

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**Identifying EIB**  
 Who should be Tested for EIB?



Patient experiences signs and symptoms of asthma while exercising and has

- No clinical history of asthma
- Normal or near normal lung function during spirometry



**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Fitch et al. Asthma and the elite athlete: Summary of the International Olympic Committee's Consensus Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland, January 22-24, 2008. J Allergy Clin Immunol Aug 2010; 125:103-110.

Walker, John M et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update 2016. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

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**Question 4**



Diagnosing EIB

Why should the physician **not** skip the challenge test and start the patient on bronchodilator therapy?

- A) Symptoms could be from a cardiac issue
- B) Symptoms could be from a vocal cord issue
- C) A challenge test could help direct precision therapy
- D) All of the above

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Asanon, S.D., Vandemheen, K.L., FitzGerald, J.M., Ainslie, M., Gupta, S., Lemiere, C., Boulet, L. (2017). Reevaluation of Diagnosis in Adults with Physician-Diagnosed Asthma. *astma*, 31(10), 208-218. doi: 10.1007/jama.2016.18627

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**Diagnosing EIB**  
 Guideline Recommendations



EIB should be diagnosed with objective testing

- Pre and post bronchodilator spirometry

If spirometry is inconclusive use bronchial challenge testing

- Exercise challenge
- Eucapnic voluntary hyperpnoea (EVH) challenge
- Hypertonic saline challenge
- Mannitol challenge

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. *Am J Respi Crit Care Med* Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 3, 2013.

Wanger, J. ATS Pulmonary function laboratory management & procedure manual, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: American Thoracic Society, 2016.

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Question 5



Additional Testing

When the physician learns the patient has symptoms after exercise, he suspects EIB.

Which type of bronchoprovocation test should the physician order?

- A) Direct
- B) Indirect



Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 5, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013

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Indirect Bronchial Challenge



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Test Options



Indirect challenge tests cause an increase in osmolarity of the small airways resulting in inflammation, potentially leading to bronchoconstriction

- Exercise
- Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperpnea (EVH)
- Cold Air
- Hypertonic Saline
- Mannitol



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**Indirect Bronchial Challenge**

Indications

- Assess Bronchial Hyperresponsiveness (AHR) in the presence of exercise
- Assess ICS effectiveness of preventing asthma exacerbations
- Stepping down ICS therapy

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Joos GF, O'Connor B, Anderson SD, et al. Indirect airway challenges. Eur Respir J 2001; 21: 1050-1056.  
 Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52: 1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.1801033-2018].  
 Anderson S, and Stravenski D. Methods for "Indirect" Challenge Tests Including Exercise, Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation and Hypertonic Aerosols. Clinical Reviews in Allergy & Immunology. 2015; 49: 24

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**Potential Use**

For Assessment of ICS Therapy



- ICS is a second step in treating EIB when SABA's are used daily or not effective
- ICS will decrease responsiveness of the airway to an Indirect Bronchial Challenge
- ICS therapy takes up to 4 weeks to be effective at obliterating response to Indirect Bronchial Challenge
- Consider stepping down ICS therapy in asthmatics who do not respond to Indirect Bronchial Challenge.

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52: 1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.1801033-2018].  
 GINA 3. Expert panel report 3: Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of Asthma (GPR3-2007). Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Asthma Education and Prevention Program 2001.

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**Contraindications**

All Indirect Challenges



- Inducible cardiac ischemia
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Aortic aneurysm
- Life threatening arrhythmias
- Recent surgeries
- Respiratory tract infections that may be impacted by irritation of airway

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52: 1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.1801033-2018].  
 Astol US Package Insert (available for download at astoldchallenge.com)

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**Contraindications continued**



**When to Reconsider Challenge Testing**

**Baseline FEV1**

- ≤ 75% for EC and EVH
- ≤ 65% for Cold Air Challenge
- ≤ 70% for Hypertonic Saline and mannitol

**Mannitol only**

- Allergy to mannitol
- Allergy to gelatin used for capsules

**methapharm** Respiratory

Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52:1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2018].  
Aridol US Package Insert (available for download at aridolchallenge.com)

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**Pre-Challenge Spirometry**



**All Challenge Tests**

- Obtain 3 reproducible FVC maneuvers
- Determine the patient's FEV<sub>1</sub> percentage of predicted



**methapharm** Respiratory

Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013  
Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52:1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2018].

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**Exercise Challenge**



- High intensity exercise to replicate the physiological response specific to individual sport
- Gives a real-life look at cause of symptoms
- Guidelines are well defined and current
- Used in pediatric and adult patients



**methapharm** Respiratory

Smoliga, James M., Prina Weis, Kenneth W. Rundell. Exercise induced bronchoconstriction in adults: evidence based diagnosis and management. BMJ 2016;352:h6851 doi: 10.1136/bmj.h6851 (Published 13 January 2016)  
Branman, John D., and Celeste Porsberg. Immunol Allergy Clin N Am 38 (2018) Testing for Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction pp 215-229

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**Exercise Challenge**



**Performing the Test**

Patient exercises until a specific heart rate or respiratory rate has been maintained for 4-6 minutes

**Required Equipment:**

- Treadmill **or** electromagnetically braked cycle ergometer
- EKG (three lead if uncomplicated, 12 lead for complicated)
- Dry air source
- Nose clip
- Pulse oximeter (optional)

**methapharm** Respiratory American Thoracic Society Guidelines for Methacholine and Exercise Challenge Testing – 1999 (Published in American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine, Vol. 161:3, January 2000.

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**Exercise Challenge**



**Monitoring**

- Measure FEV<sub>1</sub> immediately and at 3, 6, 10, 15, & 30 min
- Continue to measure FEV<sub>1</sub> all the way to 30 min to capture severity of bronchoconstriction
- A 10% drop of FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline = positive test
  - Administer a SABA if the patient experience severe reactions or if the FEV<sub>1</sub> has not returned to within 10% of baseline at discharge

**methapharm** Respiratory Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Jans G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2018; 52:1801033

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**Exercise Challenge**



**Potential Limitations**

- Type, duration and intensity of exercise
- Humidity level
- Sustaining high respiratory rate
- Recent exercise
- Access to quality testing
- Reproducibility
- Sensitivity
- Safety
- Staffing

**methapharm** Respiratory Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respi Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013  
Anderson SD. "Indirect" Challenges from Science to clinical practice. Eur Clin Respi J. 2016;3:31096

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**Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation (EVH)**



- Creates response similar to exercise without stress of exercise
- Yields faster results than an exercise challenge through the patient's voluntary maximum ventilation efforts
- False-negative tests are unlikely
- Does not require space for exercise equipment

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Brown, S.M. D. and Cohen-Prados, J. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 124:10 (2010) Testing for Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction pp 214-229  
 Anderson SG. "Indirect" Challenges From Science to Clinical Practice. *Curr Opin Respir J*. 2014;9:1086.  
 Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 185(7): pp 949-957, March 9, 2012.

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**Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation (EVH)**



**Required Equipment**

- Compress gas containing 21% O<sub>2</sub>, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, balance N<sub>2</sub>
- Gas cylinder with a direct demand valve or Douglas bag/balloon
- High pressure tubing
- Mouthpiece
- Nose clip
- 3 cm tubing
- Stop clock
- Dry gas meter
- Bronchodilator
- Emergency response equipment

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 185(7): pp 949-957, March 9, 2012.  
 Hull, JH, Ansley, L, Price, D.J., Dickinson, J.W., Bonnici, M. Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation: Gold Standard for Diagnosing Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction in Athletes? *Sports Med*, 2016 Aug; 46(8): 1085-93 doi: 10.1007/s40279-016-0481-9

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**Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation (EVH)**



**Performing the Test**

- Patient breathes dry air containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 85% MVV for 6 minutes
- FEV<sub>1</sub> is measured immediately post-test and at 3,6,10,15 and 30 minutes
- Positive EVH if FEV<sub>1</sub> falls ≥ 10% from baseline
- Administer a SABA if the patient experiences severe reactions or if the FEV<sub>1</sub> has not returned to within 10% of baseline at discharge

**methapharm**  
Respiratory

Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. *Eur Respir J*. 2016;32:1501153 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01019-2016].

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### Cold Air Challenge



#### Potential Limitations

- Low sensitivity
- Best use is with patients who complain of shortness of breath specifically while in cold air
  - Sometimes shortness of breath is thought to be caused by the face being exposed to cold air
- Requires specialized equipment



Anderson D. and Brannan JD. Methods for "Indirect" Challenge Tests Including Exercise, Eucapnic Voluntary Hyperventilation and Hypertonic Aerosols. Clinical Reviews in Allergy & Immunology, 2003, Vol 24

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### Interpretation



#### Severity Specific to EC, EVH, CAC

The severity of EIB can be graded as mild, moderate, or severe if fall in FEV1 from the pre-challenge level is

- $\geq 10\%$  but  $< 25\%$
- $\geq 25\%$  but  $< 50\%$
- $> 50\%$



Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 4, 2013

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### Indirect Bronchial Challenge



#### Special Consideration

Dose response tests such as mannitol and hypertonic saline are recommended for patients with known asthma, as some of the other indirect tests can potentially cause a more significant fall in FEV<sub>1</sub>.



Weller et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update – 2016. J Allergy Clin Immunol Nov 2016

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**Hypertonic Saline Challenge** 

- Incremental indirect challenge
- Quick and simple
- Does not require capital equipment e.g. treadmill or stationary bike
- Used in pediatrics and adults

**methapharm** Respiratory Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss. 9, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013.  
Haltstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2016; 52:1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2016].

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**Hypertonic Saline Challenge** 

**Performing the Test**

- 4.5% hypertonic saline is delivered via ultrasonic nebulizer for increasing periods of time
- Breathing time is 30 seconds, 1, 2, 4 and 8 minutes
- FEV<sub>1</sub> is monitored after each delivery step at 30 and 90 seconds
- If FEV<sub>1</sub> decreases > 15% from baseline, the test is considered positive
- If the FEV<sub>1</sub> decreases 10-15% from baseline during test, dose is repeated

**methapharm** Respiratory Coates AL, Wanger J, Cocroft DW, et al. ERS technical standards on bronchial Challenge testing: general considerations and performance of methacholine Challenge tests. Eur Respir J 2017; 49: 1601526

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**Hypertonic Saline Challenge** 

**Potential Limitations**

- Nebulizer
  - Must be ultra sonic nebulizer
  - Known particle size
- Piezo-electrodes do not produce stable size of aerosol over time
- Disinfecting machine to reduce bacterial growth
- Excessive salivation, a saliva collection reservoir is recommended

**methapharm** Respiratory Anderson SD. "Indirect" Challenges from Science to clinical practice. Eur Clin Respir J 2016;3:31096  
Haltstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J 2016; 52:1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2016].

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**Interpretation**



**Specific to Hypertonic Saline**

AHR is classified using the volume of Hypertonic Saline administered during the challenge.

| PD15         | Classification |
|--------------|----------------|
| <2 ml        | Severe         |
| 2.1 – 6.0 ml | Moderate       |
| 6.0 ml       | Mild           |

**methapharm** Respiratory

Anderson D, and Brannan JD. Methods for "Indirect" Challenge Tests Including Exercise, Eucapnic Voluntary Hypoventilation and Hypertonic Aerosols. Clinical Reviews in Allergy & Immunology, 2003, Vol 24

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**Mannitol Challenge**



- Incremental dose response challenge
- Patient is not required to exercise
- No capital equipment, treadmill, bike needed
- Useful to establish treatment and step up/down of ICS\*
- Is an established challenge for exercise induced bronchoconstriction

**methapharm** Respiratory

Anderson SD. "Indirect" Challenges from Science to clinical practice. Eur Clin Respir J. 2016;3:31059-Hallstrand TS, Leuppi JD, Joos G, et al. ERS technical standard on bronchial challenge testing: pathophysiology and methodology of indirect airway challenge testing. Eur Respir J. 2016; 52:1801033 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01033-2016]

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**Mannitol Challenge**



**Equipment Needed**

- Mannitol Bronchial Challenge Test Kit
- Spirometer
- Nose Clips (optional)
- Timer (optional)
- Calculator (or spirometer software)
- Bronchodilator
- Oxygen + Emergency Equipment
- Water for the patient to sip

**methapharm** Respiratory

Aridol US Package Insert (available for download at aridolchallenge.com)  
Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med Vol 187, Iss 9, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013

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**Mannitol Challenge** 

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**Performing the Test**


Progressive Protocol:

- 0 mg (baseline) 5,10,20,40,80,160,160,160 (635 mg accumulative)

Measurement

- FEV<sub>1</sub> 60 seconds post each dose
- Two maneuvers are attempted with each level and the highest FEV<sub>1</sub> is reported

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 Aridol US Package Insert (available for download at aridolchallenge.com) 52

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**Mannitol Challenge** 

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**End of Test Criteria**

- Test ends when FEV<sub>1</sub> falls **15%** from baseline  
OR  
**10%** between doses
- If a cumulative dose of 635mg has been inhaled without a 15% fall from baseline (0mg), the challenge is considered negative and complete
- Administer post-test bronchodilator as per protocol
- Patients should be monitored until FEV<sub>1</sub> has returned to 5% of pre-challenge level

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**Mannitol Challenge** 

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**Potential Limitations**

- Improper inhalation technique can cause coughing
- Patients who can not perform multiple spirometry maneuvers

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**Interpretation**  
Specific to Mannitol



|             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>PD15</b> | <b>Classification</b> |
| < 35 mg     | Severe                |
| 35- 155 mg  | Moderate              |
| 155 mg      | Mild                  |
| No Response | No AHR                |

**methapharm** Respiratory  
Brannan, J.D., Porsberg, C. Testing for Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. *Immuno Allergy Clin N Am* 38 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iac.2018.01.010>

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**Negative Results**  
Alternative Diagnosis



If patient does not respond to indirect bronchial challenge potential alternative causes to consider:

- Exercise-induced laryngeal dysfunction
- Exercise-induced hyperventilation/dyspnea – health obese
- Obstructive/Restrictive lung disease
- Obesity
- Skeletal Defects
- Diaphragmatic Paralysis
- Interstitial fibrosis
- Exercise-induced anaphylaxis
- Underlying cardiovascular mechanism
- Underlying gastrointestinal mechanism
- Exercise-induced dyspnea age appropriate
- Exertional GERD
- Mitochondrial enzyme deficiency
- Psychological

**methapharm** Respiratory  
Weller, John M et al. Exercise-induced bronchoconstriction update-2016. *American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology.*

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**Case Study**



**Patient Outcome**

- The patient went to Pulmonary Function Lab and had an Indirect Bronchial Challenge.
- Challenge was positive.
- Patient diagnosed with moderate EIB.
- SABA ordered and patient to take it 15-20 min before exercise.
- Reports some improvement in symptoms but not complete resolution.

**methapharm** Respiratory

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Question 6



What should the physician do now?

- A) Tell the patient to stop running and swimming
- B) Ask the patient to increase use of SABA to Q4 W/A
- C) Start on ICS therapy
- D) All of the above



Parsons et al. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction. Am J Respir Crit Care Med vol 187, Iss. 5, pp 1016-1027, May 1, 2013

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Indirect Bronchial Challenge

Summary



- Stimulus which cause the inflammatory pathways to activate and cause bronchoconstriction
- Highly specific tests, used to *CONFIRM AHR and EIB*
- Useful to help initiate and titrate ICS therapy
- Multiple options – which one works best for you



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Thank you!



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Questions?



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