

DIFFUSION LUNG CAPACITY IN PATIENTS WITH DIFFERENT STAGES OF COPD

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Summary

In order to evaluate a diffusion lung capacity and reveal the correlation of diffusion rate and pulmonary ventilation parameters, blood concentration and gas composition of blood in different stages of COPD we examined 63 patients (60 men and 3 women 64-84 years of age). It was established that the heavier grade of severity of COPD was associated with higher grade of lung hyperinflation and significant reduction of diffusion capacity of lungs. Based on correlation-regression analysis data we concluded that diffusion lung capacity mainly depended on lung hyperinflation and grade of bronchoobstructive ventilation disturbances. These findings suggest the necessity of further study of effectiveness of improvement of diffusion lung capacity using end of expiration positive pressure methods as a major cause of lung hyperinflation.