

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OXYGEN THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AND IDIOPATHIC INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA

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Summary

We have studied an influence of an oxygen therapy on blood gases indices in 13 patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and 17 patients with idiopathic interstitial pneumonia (IIP) with severe hypoxemia. We have concluded that both groups of patients with COPD and IPP with similar grade of hypoxemia differed significantly by the grade and the mechanisms of lung diffusion (DL) disturbances. In IIP patients there were extremely prominent disturbances of DL, caused by thickening of alveolar-capillary membrane. In COPD patients we observed moderate disturbances of DL, which were caused by a difference of oxygen partial pressure in alveoli and capillaries due to hyperinflation of lungs. Standard oxygen flow rate (3 l/min), used in treatment of COPD patients, was not effective in patients with IIP. The choice of oxygen therapy flow rate for these patients lies within 3-5 l/min, depending on blood oxygen saturation index response.