

## **Comparison of the Arterial PaCO<sub>2</sub> Values and ETCO<sub>2</sub> Values Measured with Sidestream Capnography in Patients with a Prediagnosis of COPD Exacerbation**

İşat G, Cimilli Öztürk T, Ecmel Onur Ö, Özdemir S, Ünal Akoğlu E, Tokgöz Akyl F, Kuzu Okur H. *Avicenna Journal of Medicine*. 2023 Jul 13.

**Background** Aim of this study is to investigate whether end-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) values can be used instead of partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PaCO<sub>2</sub>) values in guiding treatment, and determining treatment benefits in patients that received a pre-diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbation at the emergency department.

**Methods** This observational prospective study was conducted with patients who presented to the emergency department with the complaint of shortness of breath and were diagnosed with COPD exacerbation. ETCO<sub>2</sub> was measured with the sidestream method during blood gas analysis in patients with indications for this analysis. Measurements were repeated at hour 1 after treatment.

**Results** The study included a total of 121 cases. There was a positive correlation between the PaCO<sub>2</sub> and ETCO<sub>2</sub> values measured before and after treatment ( $r = 0.736$ ,  $p < 0.01$  and  $r = 0.883$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , respectively). High ETCO<sub>2</sub> values were accompanied by high PaCO<sub>2</sub> values. When the measurements before and after treatment were evaluated using the Bland–Altman method, most of the result were within the limits of agreement ( $-4.9$  and  $+31.4/- 2.6$  and  $+9.4$ ), with mean differences being calculated as 13.2 and 8.4, respectively.

**Conclusions** Although ETCO<sub>2</sub> and PaCO<sub>2</sub> were statistically consistent according to the results of our study, due to the high averages of differences between these two parameters, the ETCO<sub>2</sub> value has limited clinical use in COPD cases compared to PaCO<sub>2</sub>. However, high ETCO<sub>2</sub> values may indicate that noninvasive mechanical ventilation should be included in the treatment of COPD cases without waiting for the results of blood gas analysis, and they can also be when needed for inpatient treatment.