

Case Report: Status Asthmaticus Refractory to Conventional Treatment

Patricia Dailey, BS, RRT

A 15 year old known asthmatic was admitted to the Emergency Room for an acute exacerbation. Her mother stated that she had been sick with an upper respiratory infection which triggered her asthma. Over the course of her treatment in the ER she developed status asthmaticus that was refractory to standard treatment requiring intubation. She received several hours of continuous nebulized albuterol at a dose of 15 mg per hour via the Airlife™ Misty Finity™ nebulizer, and multiple 2.5 mg doses of albuterol instilled down the ET tube. The patient became increasingly difficult to ventilate and required manual ventilation with a resuscitation bag in conjunction with continuous bronchodilator therapy.

The patient was then transferred to PICU and due to the severity of her exacerbation preparations were made to place the patient on heliox therapy through the ventilator. The nebulizer was changed to an Aeroneb® Solo and it was placed in-line on the dry side of the ventilator circuit which previously would not have been feasible with a standard nebulizer. Continuous bronchodilator therapy was resumed at the same dosage of 15 mg of albuterol per hour. After two hours of continuous bronchodilator therapy utilizing the Aeroneb® Solo there was a dramatic improvement in her breath sounds and she subsequently did not require heliox therapy. She continued to steadily improve on Q2 hour bronchodilator therapy and the dose was gradually weaned to 5 mg of albuterol over the next 24 hours. She was extubated the next day and continued using the Aeroneb® Solo with a mouthpiece until her discharge twenty four hours later.

Our therapists were quick to recognize the benefits provided by micropump nebulizers such as the Aeroneb® Solo and they are excited about our patient's demonstrated clinical response. We have seen numerous positive patient outcomes in a variety of patient populations since its introduction. The Aeroneb® Solo has provided us with the superior technology necessary to assure optimal outcomes for our patients.



Patricia Dailey is Clinical Educator, BMC, Springfield, MA. This article was provided by Aerogen.