

## INSPIRATORY CAPACITY MEASUREMENT IN COPD

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Whilst traditional measures of forced exhalation such as the FEV<sub>1</sub> clearly play an important role in the diagnosis and classification of severity of COPD, there is now substantial evidence that measures of lung hyperinflation provide more clinically relevant information on physiological status in this disease. The inspiratory capacity has been shown to be a reliable indicator of the development of dynamic hyperinflation, and provides information which has been shown to relate to dyspnoea levels, exercise performance and all-causes mortality. It can also be reliably used to monitor improvements in response to a range of therapeutic modalities, often when other markers of disease status fail to do so. The overall role for routine measurements of inspiratory capacity in the everyday management in COPD patient remains to be clearly identified.