



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ROLE OF NON INVASIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION IN PATIENTS WITH ACUTE EXACERBATION OF COPD AND TO DETERMINE ITS OUTCOME

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ABSTRACT

- The present study was conducted to understand the role of NIPPV in patients with acute exacerbation of COPD who are medically unresponsive. The sample size was 40.
 - The mean age of the study population was 60.7± 7.2 yrs.
 - Out of the 40 cases included in the study, 36 (90%) were males and 4 (10%) were females, sex ratio 9:1 (male:female).
 - A history of smoking was obtained in 90% of study population.
 - The Borg dyspnoea score improved from 5 at baseline to 1.4 ± 0.07 at discharge. (p <0.0001)
 - The mean respiratory rate dropped from 34.8 ± 4.4 before NIV to 13.82 ± 1.96 (p <0.0001) at discharge. Heart rate too decreased from 102.4 ± 10.9 to 77.1 ± 9.65 (p <0.0001).
 - The mean pH changed from 7.29± 0.02 at baseline to 7.4 ± 0.03 at discharge (p <0.0001).
 - There was also a marked improvement in mean PaCO₂ and PaO₂ which changed from, 67.3 ± 5.61, 54.6 ± 8.85 at baseline to 50.02 ± 4.08, 75.1 ± 9.71 at the time of discharge respectively (p <0.0001 for both parameters).
 - Respiratory rate at baseline was significantly higher in the patients who failed to respond to NIV and there was a significant improvement in the clinical and blood gas parameters within the 1st of NIV in the successful group whereas no such improvement was observed in the failure group.
 - In the present study NIPPV was successful in 34 patients (85%) and 6 patients (15%) failed to respond and required intubation. Of them, 2 patients did not consent and left against medical advice. 4 were intubated and all of them eventually expired. No mortality was observed in the patients improved and continued on NIPPV.
 - The mean IPAP used in the present study was 16.5 ± 0.9 and mean EPAP used was 5.2±0.52.
 - NIPPV was used for an average of 38.5±13 hrs.
 - The incidence of complications in the present study was 10% which included aspiration pneumonia (2.5%), irritation of eyes (5%) and dryness of mouth (2.5%).
 - The mean duration of hospital stay in the present study was 10.32±3.46 days.
- Our results strongly support and encourage the use of NIPPV as a first line ventilatory management in patients with respiratory failure due to acute exacerbations of COPD.

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INTRODUCTION

COPD is a major health problem and has huge financial impact on society. Sixth leading cause of death in 1990. Morbidity and Mortality increase during acute exacerbation. Patients may have hypoxia and hypercapnia during acute exacerbations. NIV is slandered care hypercapnia respiratory failure in such cases and in patients with worsening respiratory symptoms (Fishman et al., 2003; Kelly et al., 2001; Celli et al., 2004). NIV by nasal masks was use for neuromuscular diseases (World Health

Report, 2000; Laënnec, 1821). The indication for NIV in COPD are respiratory acidosis PH < 7.35, PCO₂ >45, severe dyspnea with respiratory muscles, paradoxical respiratory movements with intercostals retractions. NIV is defined as pressure ventilatory assistants to lungs without invasive artificial airway it is easy to administer intermide and good compliance patients. It reduces to work of breathing and does not interfere with patient speech and eating. NIV reduces a need for sedation and avoids intubation of airways prolong intubation can need to airway infections. It is highly cost effective and easy to administer. NIV is the two types a) Negative pressure ventilation b) positive pressure ventilation (Schonhofer et al., 1997)

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Aim

Role of non Invasive pressure ventilation in patients with acute exacerbation of COPD and to determine its outcome. The study was conducted on 40 patients with an acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (AECOPD) admitted to GENERAL HOSPITAL in Hyderabad. The inclusion and exclusion criteria used for the study were-

Inclusion criteria

Moderate to severe dyspnoea lasting < 2 weeks plus any two of the following

Respiratory rate >25/min
Signs of increased work of breathing
pH < 7.35 – 7.25

Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PaCO₂) > 45 mmHg after an aggressive and appropriate medical therapy including oxygen supplementation.

Exclusion criteria

Cardiac / respiratory arrest
Hemodynamic instability
Unstable arrhythmias
Encephalopathy, Irritability
Recent Myocardial infarction
Facial surgery/trauma/deformity,

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient or from his closest relative. Baseline evaluation consisting of patient's clinical history and detailed clinical examination was conducted. Parameters that were recorded include dyspnoea graded by modified Borg dyspnoea score, respiratory rate (RR), heart rate (HR), arterial blood gas analysis. Routine blood investigations were sent. A chest X-ray was taken. All patients were administered NIPPV using the BiPAP ventilatory support system (GE Inc). A well fitting face mask was used for the study. The procedure was explained to the patient. The head end of the bed was elevated to 45° angle. Patients were initiated with an IPAP 10cm H₂O and EPAP of 4–5 cm H₂O. IPAP was gradually increased at a rate of approximately 5 cm H₂O every 10 minutes, with a pressure target of 20 cm H₂O or until a therapeutic response is achieved or patient's tolerability has been reached. Supplemental Oxygen therapy was administered with NIPPV and titrated to achieve an oxygen saturation of 88-92%. After starting treatment each patient was monitored closely for initial one hour. Patient's discomfort and intolerance to mask was looked for. Once initiated continuous application of NIPPV was encouraged, with intermittent discontinuation for eating and drinking. Standard pharmacologic treatment including bronchodilators [inhaled salbutamol, ipratropium bromide and steroids (IV hydrocortisone)] and antibiotics were given along with NIPPV. Blood pressure, respiratory rate, heart rate, dyspnoea using modified Borg scale were recorded at the baseline, 1 hr, 6hrs and daily until discharge. The outcome of NIPPV usage was measured in terms of the number of patients cured by NIPPV and those who failed on NIPPV. The mean duration of NIPPV application, duration of hospital stay and any complications related to the procedure. Statistical analysis was done using standard methods. A p value <0.05 is considered significant and p value < 0.001 is considered extremely significant.

RESULTS (Rocai Wagner, 1994)

Age distribution

Table 1

Age	No of patients(n=40)	Percentage
41-50	6	15
51-60	16	40
61-70	16	40
71-80	2	5

The mean age of the study population is 60.7 ± 7.8 yrs. Majority of them were in the age group of 51-60 yrs and 61-70 yrs each constituting 40%

Sex distribution

Out of the 40 patients included in the study 36 (90%) were males and 4 (10%) were females. Sex ratio (M:F) is 9:1

Table 2

Gender	No of Patients(n=40)	Percentage
Male	36	90
Female	4	10

Smoking History

Table 3

Pack years of smoking	No of patients(n=40)	Percentage
Nil	4	10
≤ 10	9	22.5
11-20	20	50
21-30	5	12.5
>30	2	5

In the present study a history of smoking (either active or ex smokers) was obtained in 36 patients (90%). Most of the patients had an average smoking pack years of 11-20 (50%). Among the males 34 were smokers, 2 were non smokers and among the females 2 were smokers. Most of the patients had an average smoking pack years of about 11-20. Demographic and baseline characteristics of the study population

Table 4

Characteristic of the patient	
Total no of patients (n)	40
Age (yrs)	60.7 ± 7.8*
Sex ratio (M: F)	36:4
Smokers	36(90%)
Dyspnoea score	5
Respiratory rate	34.8 ± 4.4*
Heart rate	102.4 ± 10.9*
pH	7.29 ± 0.02*
PaCO ₂	67.3 ± 5.61*
PaO ₂	54.6 ± 8.85*
Comorbidities	
Diabetes	6 (15%)
Hypertension	8 (20%)
Diabetes + Hypertension	4 (10%)
Cor pulmonale	12 (30%)
Chronic kidney disease	2 (5%)
Ischaemic heart disease	0

RESULTS

Dyspnoea scores reduced remarkable in many patients who are receiving NIV

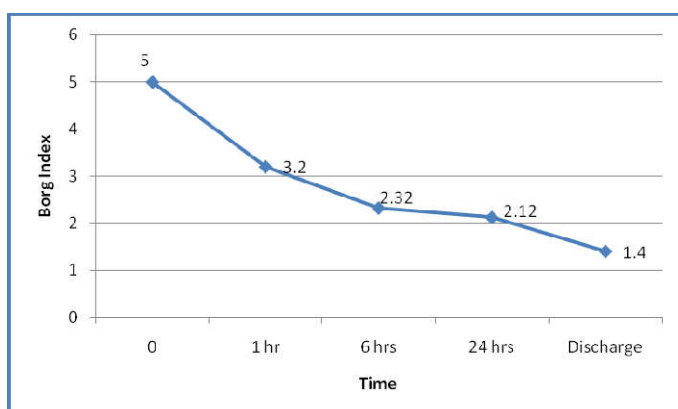
Table 11

	0(n=40)	1 hr(n=40)	6 hrs(n=34)	24 hrs(n=34)	Discharge(n=34)
Dyspnoea score	5	3.2 ± 0.02*	2.32 ± 0.47*	2.12 ± 0.38*	1.4 ± 0.07 *
Heart rate (per min)	102.4 ± 10.9	97.2 ± 9.39*	88.23 ± 8.12*	77.47 ± 8.62*	77.1 ± 9.65*
Respiratory rate(breaths/min)	34.8 ± 4.4	26.9 ± 5.66*	16.64 ± 1.73*	15.47 ± 1.2*	13.82 ± 1.96*

*p value less than <0.0001 from baseline

In the present study NIPPV was administered to 40 patients. Out of 40, 6 patients deteriorated and required intubation within 6 hrs. 34 patients who remained by the end of 6 hrs continued to receive NIPPV. NIPPV was effective in lessening the dyspnoea score from 5 at baseline to 3.2 ± 0.02 at 1 hr, to 2.32 ± 0.4 at 6 hrs, 2.12 ± 0.38 at 24 hrs and 1.4 ± 0.07 at the time of discharge. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 4 measurements) The respiratory rate decreased from 34.8 ± 4.4 at baseline to 26.9 ± 5.66 at 1 hr, to 16.64 ± 1.73 at 6 hrs, 15.47 ± 1.2 at 24 hrs and 13.8 ± 1.9 at the time of discharge. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to 4 measurements) The heart rate reduced from 102.4 ± 10.9 at baseline to 97.2 ± 9.39 at 1 hr to 88.2 ± 8.1 at 6 hrs to 77.4 ± 8.6 at 24 hrs and 77.1 ± 9.65 at the time of discharge. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to 4 measurements)

Chart



Graph showing evolution of modified Borg dyspnoea score during hospitalization. High score indicates more dyspnoea. There was significant decrease of dyspnoea throughout hospitalization. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all measurements) Graph showing change in respiratory rate during hospitalization in the study population. There was significant fall in respiratory rate with NIPPV over time in the study population. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 4 measurements) Changes in the ABG parameters before, during and after NIPPV

Table 6

	0hr (n=40)	1hr (n=40)	24hrs (n=34)	Discharge (n=34)
pH	7.29 ± 0.02	7.31 ± 0.02*	7.37 ± 0.02*	7.40 ± 0.03*
PaCO ₂ mm Hg	67.3 ± 5.61	62.8 ± 5.74 *	51.8 ± 3.7*	50.02 ± 4.08*
PaO ₂ mm Hg	54.6 ± 8.85	61.7 ± 7.17*	70.3 ± 9.19*	75.14 ± 9.71*

*p < 0.0001 from baseline

Out of the 40 patients administered NIPPV, 6 patients deteriorated and required intubation and only 34 patients remained by the end of 6 hours. The pH changed from 7.29 ± 0.02 at baseline to 7.31 ± 0.02, 7.37 ± 0.02 and 7.40 ± 0.03 at

1 hr, 24 hrs and at discharge respectively. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 3 measurements) PaCO₂ decreased with time significantly from 67.3 ± 5.61 to 62.8 ± 5.74 at 1 hr, 51.8 ± 3.7 at 24 hrs and 50.02 ± 4.08 at discharge (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 3 measurements) A rise in PaO₂ was observed from 54.6 ± 8.85 to 61.7 ± 7.17 at 1 hr, to 70.3 ± 9.19 at 24 hrs and to 75.14 ± 9.71 by the time of discharge. (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 3 measurements) Graph showing the change in pH during hospitalization in the study population. pH improved significantly over time in the study population (p < 0.0001 from baseline to all 3 measurements) Graph showing changes in PaCO₂ and PaO₂ in the study population. There was a significant fall in PaCO₂ with NIPPV over time and PaO₂ also improved significantly. (p < 0.0001 for both PaCO₂ and PaO₂ from baseline to all measurements)

Ventilatory requirements

Table 5

	Mean ± SD (Range)
IPAP	16.5 ± 0.9 (15-20)
EPAP	5.2 ± 0.52 (5-8)
Duration on NIPPV (hrs)	38.5 ± 13.1 (24-80)

The mean IPAP used in the present study was 16.41 ± 0.69 The mean EPAP used was 5.11 ± 0.32. NIPPV was used for an average of 38.5 ± 13.1 hrs.

Complications

In the present study 4 complications occurred (10%) and none required discontinuation of ventilation. One is aspiration pneumonia, 2 patients experienced irritation of eyes (5%) and 1 patient experienced dryness of mouth (2.5%). Aspiration pneumonia was treated with antibiotics and it resolved completely.

Duration of hospital stay

Mean duration of hospital stay in our study was 10.32 ± 3.46 days. Majority of patients were discharged within the 2nd week.

Table 7

No of days	No of patients n=34	Percentage
1-7	5	12.5
8-14	22	55
15-21	4	10
22-28	2	5
>28	1	2.5

Graph showing the duration of hospital stay in the study population

Clinical and ABG Status Prior To and 1 Hr After NIPPV

Although the PaCO₂ of patients who failed NIPPV was higher than the patients who succeeded this did not reach statistical significance. (70.3 ± 5.7 vs 67.2±5.8, p 0.19 NS) No other differences were observed in baseline characteristics of patients who failed versus those who succeeded. After 1 hr of NIPPV, pH was significantly higher and PaCO₂ was significantly lower in the success group as compared to failed group (7.31±0.01 vs 7.29±0.01, 61.2±5.2 vs 73.8±4.6, p<0.0001). When compared to baseline values there was a significant improvement in RR (34.2 ±4.4 to 25.02± 3.1,

decompensation suggests that patients with acute exacerbations of COPD should benefit from NIPPV. The present study was undertaken to understand the role of NIPPV in patients with acute respiratory failure due to acute exacerbations of COPD and to determine the outcome of such patients attending to our hospital. The current study group comprised of 40 patients with a mean age of 60.7± 7.2 yrs. Majority of patients were males (90%) with a sex ratio (M:F) of 9:1. All patients were administered BIPAP with a mean IPAP of 16.5 ± 0.9 and a

Table 8

	Successful group(n=34)		p value	Failure group(n=6)		p value
	0 hr	1 hr		0hr	1hr	
Age	60.8±8			61.1±5.48		0.94
RR	34.2±4.4*	25.02±3.1†	<0.001	38.3±2.4*	36.6±4.7†	0.44
pH	7.29±0.02	7.31±0.01†	<0.001	7.29±0.01	7.29±0.01†	1.0
PaCO ₂	67.2±5.8	61.2±5.2 †	<0.001	70.3±5.7	73.8±4.6†	0.26
PaO ₂	54.6±9.1	62.7±6.8ψ	<0.001	54.3±7.24	56.3±5.8ψ	0.44

- Success defined by avoidance of ETI

*p value significant (<0.05) between failed and successful groups at baseline

† p value significant (<0.001) between failed and successful groups at 1 hr

ψ p value < 0.05 between failed and successful groups at 1 hr

In the present study NIPPV was successful in 34 (85%) and failed in 6 (15%) patients. RR at baseline was significantly higher in the patients who failed NIPPV (p value 0.03).

p <0.001), HR (102.6 ±11.2 to 97.8±9.1), pH (7.29±0.02 vs 7.31±0.01, p <0.001), PaCO₂ (67.2±5.8 vs 61.2±5.2, p<0.001), PaO₂ (54.6±9.1 to 62.7±6.8, p<0.001) in the success group. There was no change in pH and PaCO₂ deteriorated in the failure group.

Outcome

In the present study the success rate with NIPPV was 85%, with 34 patients weaned off successfully and discharged. Of the six patients who failed NIPPV, 2 patients did not consent and left against medical advice. The other 4 were intubated and mechanically ventilated.

All these 4 patients eventually expired

– 2 due to ventilator associated pneumonia, 1 from gram negative sepsis and multi organ dysfunction syndrome, 1 from acute cerebrovascular accident. No mortality was observed in the patients improved and continued on NIPPV

Table 8

	Successful	Failure
Number	34	6
Percentage	85	15

DISCUSSION

A significant number of acute exacerbations of COPD are associated with hypercapnic respiratory failure. Ventilatory management in such patients include both NIPPV and invasive mechanical ventilation. Numerous studies have been conducted at many centers in the past and highlighted the benefits of NIPPV usage in acute exacerbation of COPD in terms of reduced need of endotracheal intubation and invasive mechanical ventilation, shorter length of hospital stay and decreased mortality. Metaanalysis (Smith and Shneerson, 1996; Plant et al., 2000) of these trials have also confirmed the benefits of NIPPV in AECOPD. The results of previous studies and a rapidly reversible nature of most episodes of acute

mean EPAP of 5.2 ±0.52 in addition to standard medical treatment.

Outcome

NIPPV was successful in 85% of patients in our study cohort . In the study of Verma et al. (Kramer et al., 1995) in an ICU in northern India, NIPPV was successful in 90% of the study population while Umberto Meduri et al. (Brochard et al., 1995) reported it to be only 66% in a similar group of hypercapnic patients. The reported success rates in the patients treated with NIV in previous controlled studies were as follows:

Brochard et al. (1996) – 74%

Plant et al. (2000)- 85% (100/118)

Celikel et al. (1998) - 93.4 % (14/15)

Avdeev et al. (1998) – 88%

The results obtained in our study are comparable to the above mentioned studies.

Response to NIPPV

In our study a significant improvement was observed in the clinical and the blood gas parameters within 1 hr of application of NIPPV. The dyspnoea score has improved from 5 at baseline to 3.2± 0.02(p<0.0001) at 1 hr. The RR has fallen from a baseline of 34.8 ± 4.4 to 26.9± 5.66 (p<0.0001). There was a significant improvement in the average PaCO₂ levels within 1 hr from 67.3± 5.61 to 62.8 ± 5.74. This change was also reflected in pH with improvements from 7.29 ± 0.02 to 7.31 ± 0.02. The PaO₂ has also changed from 54.6 ± 8.85 to 61.7±7.17. Mc Laughlin et al. (1998) also noted a similar significant improvement in P_H which changed from 7.29 to 7.3 and PaCO₂ which changed from 70.1 to 63.7 mmHg within the 1st hour of application of NIPPV (p<0.0001). Brochard et al. (1995) found that in the NIV group RR has fallen from 35±7 to 25±8, phimproved from 7.27±0.1 to 7.31±0.09 (p<0.001) in 1 hr whereas PaCO₂ improved significantly at 3 hrs. Plant et al. (2000) in their study noted that NIV led to a significant improvement in pH in 1st hr whereas PaCO₂,RR changed significantly at 4 hrs. In our study further significant

improvement was obtained at 24 hrs and it maintained upto the time of discharge. The pH, PaCO₂ and PaO₂ changed from baseline of 7.29±0.02, 67.3±5.61, 54.6±8.85 to 7.4±0.03, 50.02±4.08, 75.1±9.71 at the time of discharge respectively. The above results are very close to the results obtained in the Verma *et al.* (1995) study where also the pH, PaCO₂, PaO₂ from baseline of 7.33±0.08, 66.4±16.24, 53.4±18 to 7.42±0.06, 56±12, 71±24.1 at the time of discharge. The results in the present study indicate that NIV not only relieves respiratory distress and rests fatigued respiratory muscles but also can significantly improve hypercapnia and acidosis in patients with respiratory failure in acute exacerbation of COPD and thus alleviate the need for endotracheal intubation. In the present study it was observed that RR at baseline was significantly higher in the patients who failed NIPPV (34.2±4.4 vs 38.3±2.4, p <0.05). Although the PaCO₂ of patients who failed NIPPV was higher than the patients who succeeded this did not reach statistical significance. After 1 hr of NIPPV, pH was significantly higher and PaCO₂ was significantly lower in the success group as compared to failed group pH. (7.31±0.01 vs 7.29±0.01, 61.2±5.2 vs 73.8±4.6, p<0.0001). When compared to baseline values there was a significant increase in pH and fall in PaCO₂ in the success group, whereas there was no change in pH, PaCO₂ deteriorated in the failure group. These findings suggest that respiratory rate at admission and an improvement in gas exchange parameters within the 1st hour of NIPPV could possibly be used to predict response to NIPPV. However other determinants of success (like level of consciousness, comorbidities, BMI etc) NIPPV were not evaluated in the present study. Garpested *et al.* (1994) have shown that an improvement in pH and PaCO₂ within 1 hr to be associated with success of NIPPV.

Duration of NIPPV

In our study NIPPV was used for a mean duration of 38.5±13 hrs. In the study of Umberto Meduri *et al.* (1995), it was 23±17 hrs. Avdeev *et al.* (1998) reported it to be 29±25 hrs in their study.

Complications

Only 4 (10%) complications occurred in the current study which were dryness of mouth and irritation of eyes which is very similar to the complication rate in Umberto Meduri *et al.* (1995) (12%). This low rate of infectious complications in patients receiving NIPPV has been confirmed in randomized studies by Brochard *et al.* (1995) and Bott *et al.* (1993).

Duration of hospital stay

The mean duration of hospital stay in our study was 10.32±3.46 days. The shorter duration of hospitalisation with the use of NIPPV is also cost effective. The limitation in the present study is the small sample size. The results in the present study support the use of NIPPV in patients with acute exacerbations of COPD.

Conclusion (1987)

The results in the present study showed that NIPPV is a promising therapeutic modality for management of selected patients with exacerbations of COPD who have respiratory acidosis even after standard medical therapy. Its timely

institution leads to a rapid and profound improvement in subjective symptoms and blood gas variables helps into avoiding intubation and invasive ventilation. With its associated complications. The protocol is simple to implement and to monitor. In the present study patients dyspnoea improved well in first six hours, a significant improvement in clinical and blood gas parameters within the 24hrs. Early response to NIPPV indicated a favourable response. However further studies are required to establish this and to evaluate other potential predictors of success for better outcomes with NIPPV.

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