

# PRESS RELEASE

## CPAP in Rescue Services

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### Non-invasive ventilation in emergency medicine: reasonable and reliable

**Bremen – Procedures long-established in hospital care are increasingly finding their way into pre-hospital emergency medicine practiced by rescue services. A recent observational study<sup>1</sup> has shown that a simple CPAP system for non-invasive ventilation of emergency care patients with severe respiratory insufficiency is a reasonable and reliable alternative to conventional ventilation.**

Observations were made of 100 patients with acute respiratory deficiency and an average age of 77.4 years. The respiratory insufficiency of 91 patients was improved by CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) therapy during transport in an emergency physician's vehicle. It was necessary to carry out pre-hospital intubation on only nine patients. A total of 90 patients tolerated the CPAP therapy very well while only 10 were said to have poor or very poor tolerance. "These results show that non-invasive ventilation can be safely and effectively used in rescue services," said Dr. Clemens Kill of the Center for Emergency Medicine at the University Hospital Marburg. Additional controlled studies on this topic are required.

#### Time gained for conservative therapy

Non-invasive ventilation is particularly advantageous for patients with acute left heart decompensation and cardiac pulmonary edema (also known as congestive heart failure) and for patients with acute bronchial obstruction. "A suitable type of non-invasive ventilation can improve gas exchange in these patients. The process saves time, during which drug treatment for the underlying disease can be administered," said Kill. While patients with left heart decompensation benefit most from the use of CPAP, patients with hypoventilation caused by obstruction generally require support of their own breathing. "Non-invasive ventilation by means of BIPAP (Biphasic Positive Airway Pressure) is very good in this case because the patient's spontaneous breathing is maintained and the regular switching between upper and lower pressure levels generates additional breaths with greater tidal volume."

#### Ventilation with MEDUMAT Transport: Mode for non-invasive ventilation can be activated

An increasing number of modern emergency ventilators now also offer non-invasive types of ventilation that provide treatment ideally suited to patients with respiratory insufficiency. An especially effective solution can be found in MEDUMAT Transport, the new ventilator developed by the medical device manufacturer Weinmann of Hamburg. The innovative emergency and transport ventilator offers the same potential uses as

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<sup>1</sup>Non-invasive Ventilation, An Effective Therapeutic Option in Pre-hospital, Notfall- und Intensivmedizin 01/2008

modern hospital respirators with eight installed types: CPAP and bilevel (corresponds to BIPAP) plus PCV, ASB, SIMV, IPPV, SVV and SPV. In addition, NIV mode can also be activated for non-invasive ventilation.

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### **Background: Weinmann**

Weinmann Geräte für Medizin GmbH + Co. KG concentrates on its product lines Homecare, Emergency and Diagnostics. In these areas the Hamburg-based family business offers diagnostic, therapeutic and also life-saving devices and system solutions of the highest quality. Today it is in the hands of the Griefahn and Feldhahn families and its headquarters have been located in Hamburg-Stellingen since 1977.

Today the company has about 500 employees. With more than 100 patent families and 90 trademarks, Weinmann is among the leading providers of medical devices for home care, diagnostics and emergency medicine in Germany. Sales in 2007 were 65.5 million Euros. Weinmann does business in more than 50 countries and operates branch offices in France, Switzerland, Thailand, China, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

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