

PRESS RELEASE

LIAM – Lung Insufflation Assist Maneuver

Date: 6 October, 2008

Cough Support for Ventilation Patients – Innovative Solution Improves Quality of Life and Survival Time

Berlin – Patients with neuromuscular diseases like ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), muscular dystrophy or post-polio syndrome often require continuous ventilation. Many of those patients are incapable of coughing up secretions that collect in the airways. Secretion management, then, is critically important to them. The medical technology company Weinmann is now forging a new way in secretion management with its home ventilator VENTI/logic LS. This device is the first to be equipped with LIAM (Lung Insufflation Assist Maneuver), a Weinmann-developed technology for cough support.

The accumulation of secretion in the airways due to a weakened cough reflex is a serious problem for patients with neuromuscular diseases. The airways can be blocked by secretion build-up or colonized by bacteria. Infections such as pneumonia, apnea and choking fits can develop. "Inadequate secretion mobilization is the most frequent cause for the failure of ventilation," said Dr. Jens Geiseler of the hospital for intensive care and long-term ventilation in München-Gauting. Early diagnosis and treatment of weak cough could presumably have a positive affect on morbidity and on patient mortality. "Our experience shows that secretion management, for example through mechanically supported coughing, takes on special significance," said Dr. Geiseler. "Some of these seriously ill patients can even be cared for at home and their secretion management handled by medical assistants. That eliminates the need for hospital stays."

Lungs and Thorax are "pre-stressed"

The new Weinmann home ventilator VENTI/logic LS has in LIAM a unique technique that supports a patient's cough. It is essentially an inspiratory maneuver during which the lungs and thorax are "pre-stressed" by deep inhalation (insufflation). This action generates a strong cough. The maximum cough, known as Peak Cough Flow, can be increased in such a way that the elimination of secretion is once again possible.

Advantages for the patient

Advantages of LIAM, particularly in contrast to other techniques like air stacking, are:

- LIAM can be used in all ventilation modes.
- "Stacking" – that is, amassing small breaths one after the other, is not required.
- The maneuver is significantly shorter and therefore more pleasant for the patient.

- It is especially important for ALS patients that closure of the glottis is not required.
- The patient acts independently up to a certain point, but LIAM can be triggered by a caregiver.

"Efficient secretion management for patients with respiratory insufficiency combined with coughing difficulty has a significant influence on how well therapy takes in general," said Florian Krickl, team leader of home ventilation and oxygen medicine at Weinmann. "The results we've seen to date from the new 'LIAM' therapy concept used on neuromuscular patients are encouraging. We are optimistic that the cough function can be simply and effectively supported by this innovative technology."

More information at: www.weinmann.de/

(3114 characters)

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.

Press Contact:

Weinmann Geräte für Medizin GmbH+Co.KG ■ Kronsaalsweg 40 ■ 22525 Hamburg ■ Germany

Juliane Papendorf ■ Press Officer

T: +49 (0)40-5 47 02-562 ■ F: +49 (0)40-5 47 02-469

E: j.papendorf@weinmann.de ■ www.weinmann.de