

From Around the Network

Judith R. Fischer, MSLS, IVUN Information Specialist, info@ventusers.org

International Ventilator Users Network's mission is to enhance the lives and independence of home mechanical ventilator users and polio survivors through education, advocacy, research and networking.

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Executive Director: Joan L. Headley, MS
info@ventusers.org

Editor: Gayla Hoffman
info@ventusers.org

Designer: Sheryl R. Rudy
webmaster@ventusers.org

Special thanks ...
Judith R. Fischer, MSLS

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New Products

Swift™ FX Bella nasal pillows from ResMed offers female vent users more options for their hairstyles with Bella loops that fit around the ears. (The Bella loops are also available for Swift™ FX for Her.) The Bella's fit range is customized for women. The rotating elbow and flexible tubing, as well as the soft cushion of the pillows, provide a stable and comfortable fit and seal. www.resmed.com/us/products/swift_fx_bella/swift-fx-bella.html?nc=patients

SleepWeaver® Feather Weight™ Tube from Circadiance, the manufacturers of the cloth SleepWeaver™ nasal mask, is lightweight and flexible. It reduces the pull of the hose that could break the seal of the mask. It can be used with a 22-millimeter connection. www.circadiance.com

Journal Articles

Decision-making about assisted ventilation is the topic of "Formal ventilation patient education for ALS predicts real-life choices" from a group of Canadian physicians and respiratory therapists led by Doug McKim, MD, FCCP, Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

In one single hands-on education session, people with ALS and their families and caregivers were presented information to guide them in making an informed choice about using assisted ventilation, either noninvasively or invasively. They were able to handle different types of ventilators, masks and trach tubes, and learn about methods of clearing secretions and assisted coughing.

Questionnaires were administered before, during, immediately after and one month after the session to assess the individual's knowledge of assisted ventilation and self-reported emotional well-being. The choices of assisted ventilation accurately predicted the actual decision made by 76 percent of the individuals. The education session reduced the uncertainty and anxiety of the individuals with ALS, as well as their caregivers, about making the assisted ventilation decision. *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis*, 2012; 13:59-65. www.informahealthcare.com

"Monitoring of noninvasive ventilation by built-in software of home bilevel ventilators: A bench study" reports on the testing of seven popularly used bilevel ventilators by a group of French and Swiss pulmonologists and respiratory therapists under Jean-Louis Pepin, MD, PhD; Philippe Jolliet, MD; and Jean-Paul Janssens, MD.

The study concluded that "Physicians monitoring patients who use home ventilation must be aware of differences in the estimation of leaks and V_T [tidal volume] by ventilator software. Also, leaks are reported in different ways according to the device used." Physicians need to be aware that the reporting of leaks is not standardized, and there is considerable variability that can produce misleading results. *CHEST*, 2012; 141(2):469-476. www.chestnet.org ▲