

Patients with hypoventilation may need supplemental oxygen on-board flights

August 4 2014

Severely overweight people who suffer from hypoventilation can have abnormally low levels of oxygen (hypoxaemia) in their blood during air travel as a result of reduced atmospheric pressure in the cabin of aircrafts.

In a recent *Respirology* study, even patients diagnosed with [obesity hypoventilation syndrome](#) who were in the care of specialist and had normal daytime blood oxygen levels were still at risk of hypoxaemia when flying.

"The findings suggest that it is advisable for all hypoventilation syndrome patients to do a hypoxic challenge test before [air travel](#) to be better prepared for the possibility that supplementary oxygen on-board or non-invasive ventilation is needed," said lead author Dr. Masood Ali.

More information: Ali, M., Smith, I. E., Gulati, A. and Shneerson, J. M. (2014), Pre-flight assessment in patients with obesity hypoventilation syndrome. *Respirology*. [DOI: 10.1111/resp.12353](https://doi.org/10.1111/resp.12353)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Patients with hypoventilation may need supplemental oxygen on-board flights (2014, August 4) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-08-patients-hypoventilation-supplemental-oxygen-on-board.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.