

Hypoxia challenge test can ID fitness to fly in neonates

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(HealthDay)—Many infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)

fail hypoxia challenge testing (HCT) and cannot be deemed fit to fly, according to a study published online Feb. 15 in *Pediatrics*.

Susanne Vetter-Laracy, Ph.D., M.D., from the University Hospital Son Espases in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and colleagues determined the earliest fit-to-fly age by testing neonates younger than 1 week in an observational study. The study included three groups: healthy term infants aged ≤ 7 days (24 infants); preterm infants (≥ 34 weeks corrected [gestational age](#) [CGA]; 62 infants) two to three days before discharge; and preterm infants with [bronchopulmonary dysplasia](#) (BPD; 23 infants). A body plethysmograph with a 15 percent fraction of inspired oxygen was used to conduct HCT.

The researchers found that one term infant (4.2 percent), 12 preterm infants without BPD (19.4 percent), and 16 preterm infants with BPD (69.3 percent) failed HCT ($P < 0.001$), with a median decrease in oxygen saturation of 16 percent (test fail point was

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