

# Tidal CO<sub>2</sub> prognostic for chronic thromboembolic pulmonary HTN

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(HealthDay)—End-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) levels are prognostic

for patients with chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH), according to a letter to the editor published online Aug. 14 in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

Manuel J. Richter, M.D., from the Kerckhoff Heart and Thoracic Center in Bad Nauheim, Germany, and colleagues retrospectively analyzed data from the Giessen Pulmonary Hypertension Registry for 151 patients with inoperable CTEPH. Baseline ETCO<sub>2</sub> levels obtained at rest were available for all patients.

The researchers found that 27.2 percent of the patients died during a mean follow-up of  $64.8 \pm 40.2$  months. The median ETCO<sub>2</sub> at baseline was 27 mm Hg, which was substantially decreased. ETCO<sub>2</sub> was related to overall survival as a continuous variable in univariate analysis (hazard ratio, 0.91). Significantly impaired pulmonary hemodynamics and a more advanced functional class were seen for patients with inoperable CTEPH who had ETCO<sub>2</sub>

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