


OFFICIAL-12-A1

# Exercise vs airway clearance techniques

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Royal Adelaide Hospital

July 2021

Shaping the future of health  
with world-class care and world-class research



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Zach et al, Arch Dis Childhood 1982; 57:587-589  
Andreasson et al, Acta Paediatr Scand 1987; 76:70-75

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### Proposed benefits

ACT	Exercise
	Glycaemic control
	BMD
	Anxiety and depression
	HRQL
	Exercise capacity
Lung function	Lung function
Respiratory symptoms	Respiratory symptoms

Ward et al, Exp Rev Res Med, 2019; 13: 449-458.  
Wamock & Gates, Cochrane Database of systematic Rev 2015, Issue 12: CD004604.  
Wilson et al, Cochrane Database of systematic Rev 2019, Issue 1: CD011231

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### Reducing treatment burden



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### Adherence



O'Donoghue & Fullen, Respir Care 2014, 59: 1731-1746

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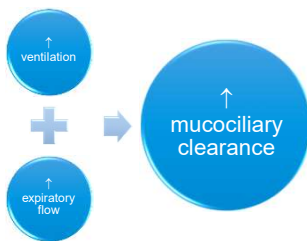
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### Mechanisms of increased secretion clearance



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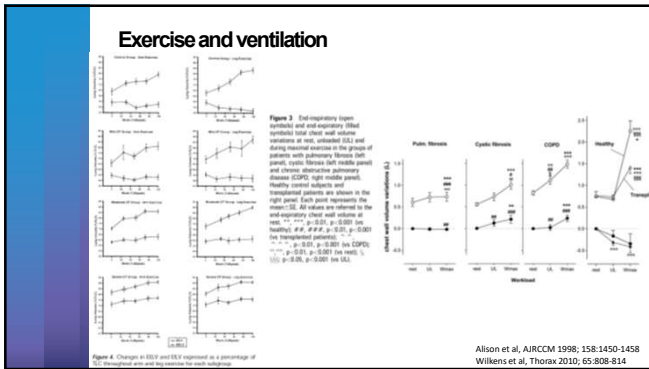
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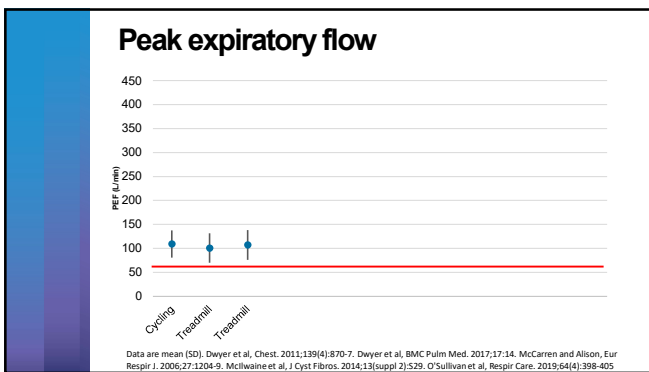
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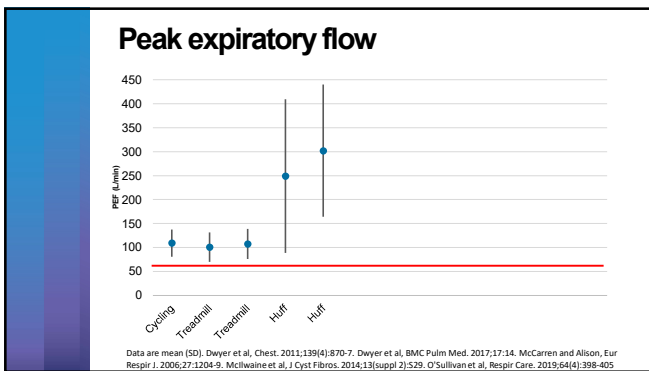
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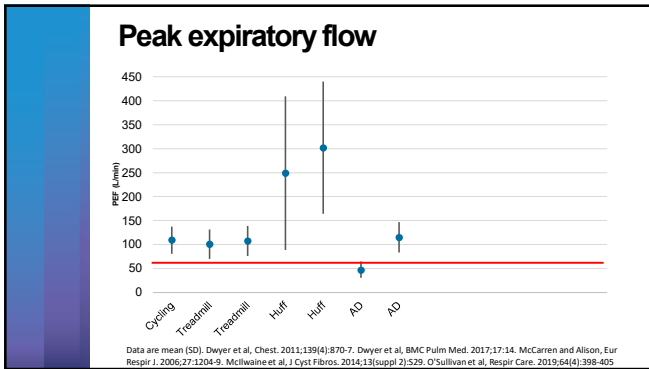
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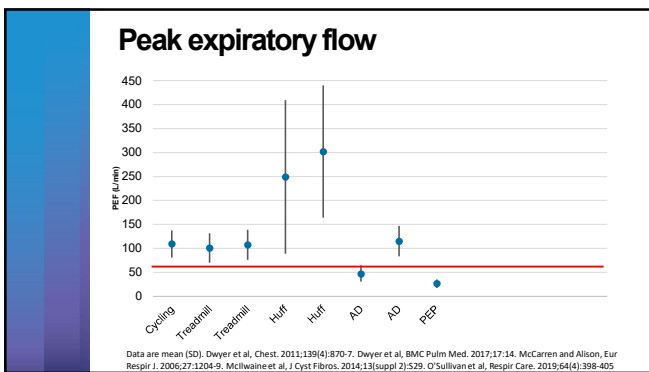
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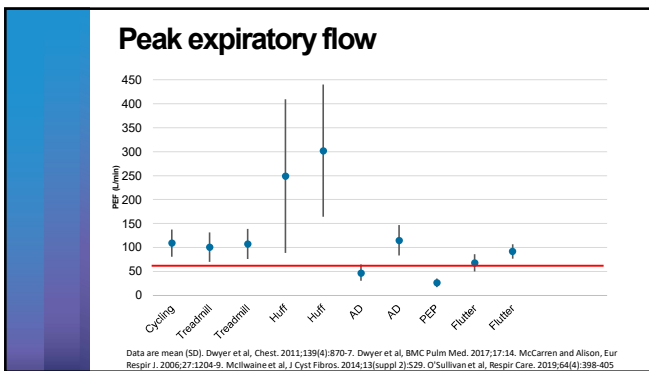
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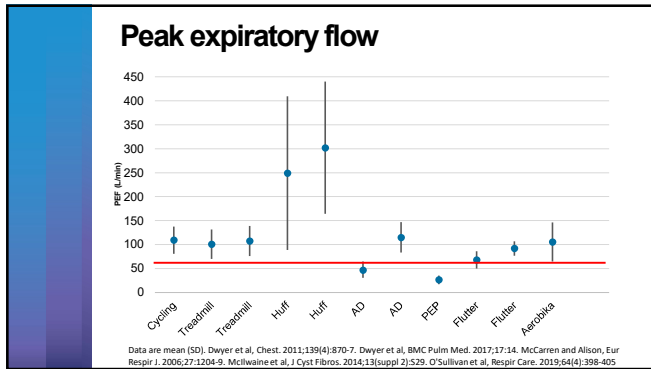
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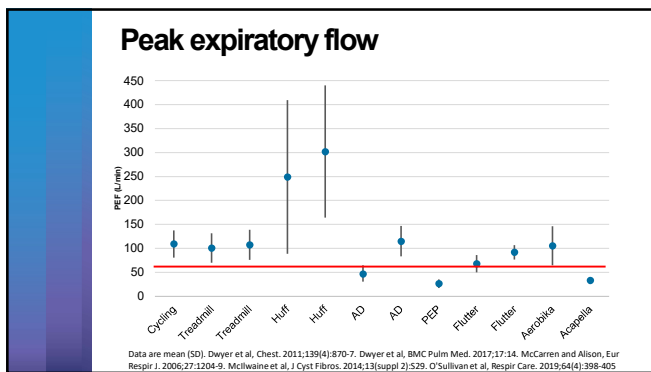
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### PEF bias

Intervention	n	PEFR (L/min)	PEFR:PIFR
Cycling	14	109.2 ± 28.2	0.93 ± 0.08
Treadmill	14	107.4 ± 31.2	0.92 ± 0.11
	24	100.8 ± 30.8	0.90 ± 0.10
Huff	17	302 ± 138	2.80
	14	249 ± 180	-
AD	14	47.7 ± 17 to 115 ± 31.7	-
PEP	18	28.4 ± 9	0.47
Flutter®	24	91.8 ± 15	1.13 ± 0.37
	17	67.8 ± 18	1.15
Aerobika®	21	105.2 ± 40.8	-
Acapella	18	35.4 ± 4.8	0.64

Dwyer et al, Chest. 2011;139(4):870-7. Dwyer et al, BMC Pulm Med. 2017;17:14. McCarren and Alison, Eur Respir J. 2006;27:1204-9. McIlwaine et al, J Cyst Fibros. 2014;13(suppl 2):S29. O'Sullivan et al, Respir Care. 2019;64(4):398-405

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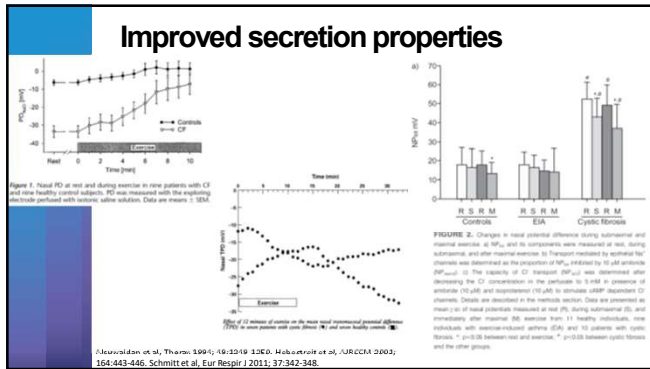
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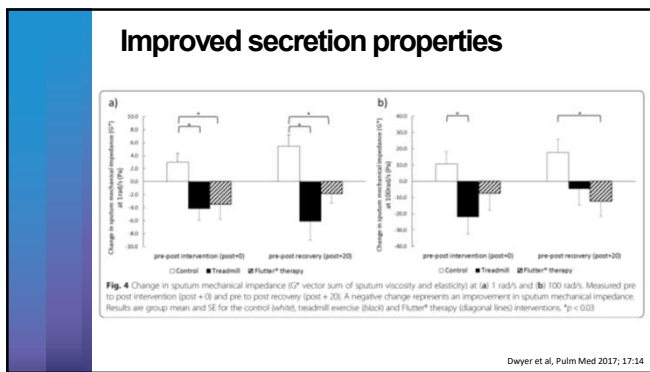
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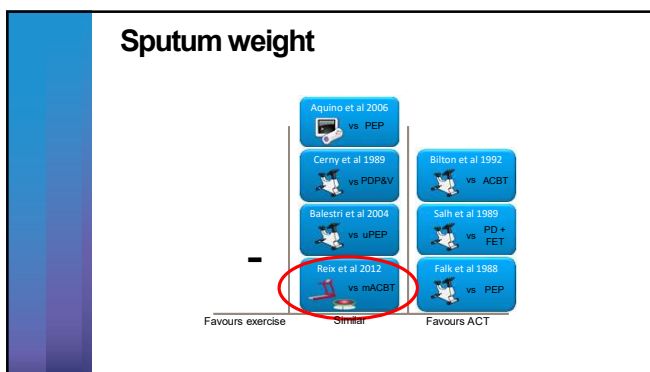
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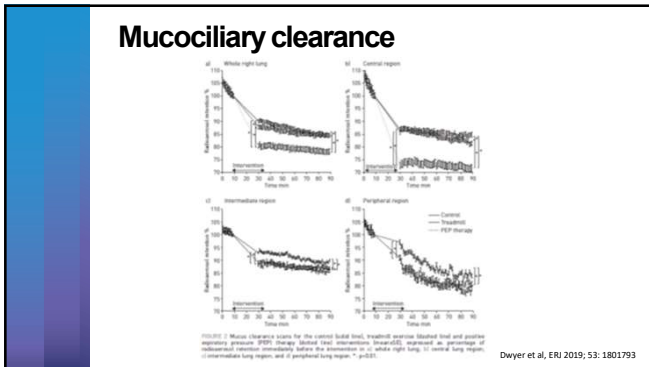
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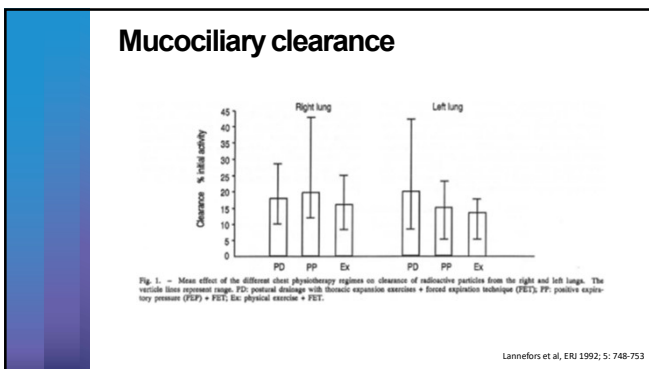
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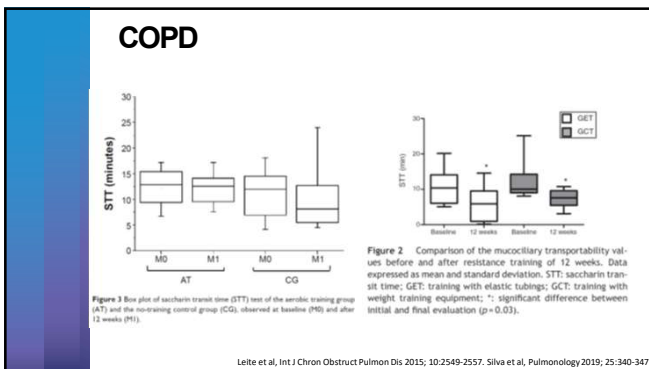
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## Non-CF Bronchiectasis

- Limited data
- PR vs usual care
- Bronchiectasis n=30 (+30 healthy controls)
- 12 weeks of PR
- Outcomes
  - Saccharin transport time
  - Mucus adhesiveness and transport rate
  - Nasal lavage fluid
  - Exhaled breath condensate
  - Nasal fractional exhaled nitric oxide
  - PFTs and IOS
  - HRQOL

**Effects of exercise on secretion transport, inflammation, and quality of life in patients with noncystic fibrosis bronchiectasis**  
Protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Dos Santos et al, Med 2018; 97:7

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## Respiratory symptom benefits

Table 2  
Participants reported respiratory symptom benefits from performing airway clearance techniques and exercise over the preceding 3 months.

Reported benefits	Airway clearance techniques (n = 691)	Exercise (n = 682)
Identified respiratory symptom benefits, n (%)		
yes	574 (83)	533 (78)
not applicable	73 (11)	138 (20)
Symptom benefits, n (%)		
less coughing	338 (49)	272 (40)
less chest congestion	405 (59)	355 (52)
less likely to cough up sputum	227 (33)	170 (25)
less short of breath	222 (32)	223 (33)
less chest pain	61 (9)	74 (11)
less chest tightness	211 (31)	212 (31)
less wheeze	178 (26)	136 (20)
other	26 (4)	60 (9)
Time to onset, n (%)		
within a few minutes of starting by end of treatment	89 (13)	66 (10)
within 30 minutes of finishing	224 (32)	189 (28)
> 30 minutes after finishing	137 (21)	142 (21)
other	61 (9)	88 (13)
Duration of benefits, n (%)		
< 30 minutes	13 (2)	23 (3)
30 to 30 minutes	40 (6)	6 (1)
3 to 2 hours	91 (13)	21 (3)
3 to 12 hours	74 (11)	71 (10)
> 12 hours	200 (29)	201 (29)
unsure	87 (13)	127 (19)
unsure	103 (15)	95 (14)

Ward et al. J Physiother 2019; 65: 43-50

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## PFTs

**A. FVC**

Mean Difference (95% CI)

Exercise -200 (-250 to -150)

Traditional ACT -200 (-250 to -150)

**B. FEV<sub>1</sub>**

Mean Difference (95% CI)

Exercise -200 (-250 to -150)

Traditional ACT -200 (-250 to -150)

**C. FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC**

Mean Difference (95% CI)

Exercise -200 (-250 to -150)

Traditional ACT -200 (-250 to -150)

**D. PEF**

Mean Difference (95% CI)

Exercise -200 (-250 to -150)

Traditional ACT -200 (-250 to -150)

**E. PEF/PEF<sub>50</sub>**

Mean Difference (95% CI)

Exercise -200 (-250 to -150)

Traditional ACT -200 (-250 to -150)

Figure 5. Exercise versus traditional airway clearance technique—pulmonary function tests. ACE1 active cycle of breathing technique, ACT airway clearance technique; FEV<sub>1</sub>, forced expiratory flow between 25% and 75% of FVC; FEV<sub>1</sub>/FVC, forced expiratory volume in one second/forced vital capacity; FVC, forced vital capacity; PEF, peak expiratory flow; PEF/PEF<sub>50</sub>, peak expiratory flow to peak expiratory flow ratio.

www.ccf.ac.uk, epub ahead of print

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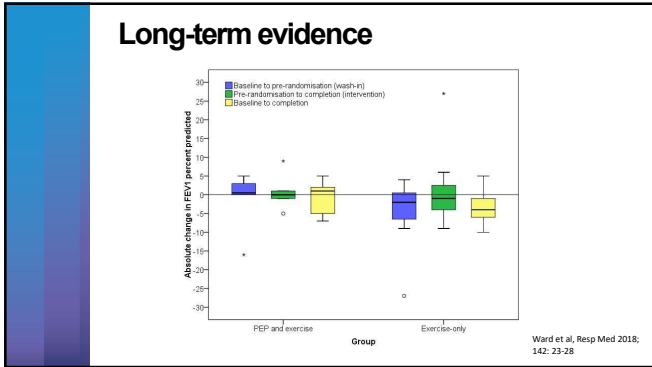
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### The present and the future

Ivacaftor  
 Ivacaftor/lumacaftor  
 Ivacaftor/tezacaftor  
**IVACAFTOR/TEZACAFTOR  
 /ELEXACAFTOR**

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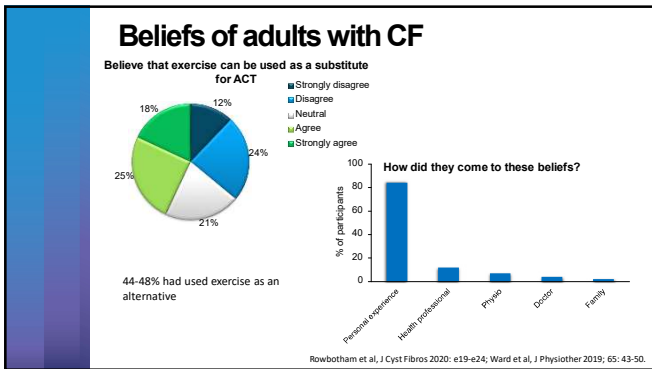
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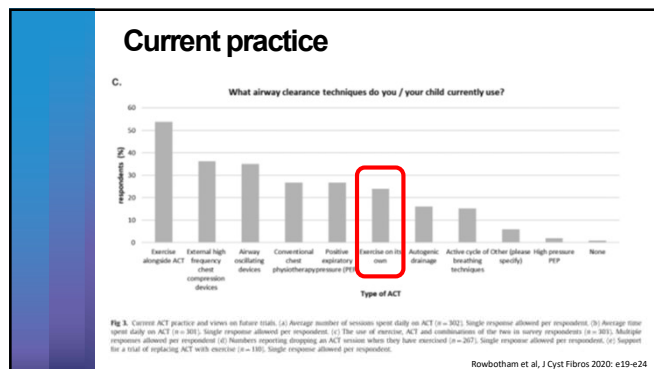
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### Current practice

Table 2 Frequency of use of ACTs in 196 UK physiotherapist leading adults = 168 UK physiotherapist leading paediatric = 133

Airway clearance technique	Very often/daily or often	Sometimes	Rarely/never
<b>Exercise alone</b>	95 (57%)	57 (34%)	7 (4%)
External high frequency chest compression	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Airway oscillating devices	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Conventional chest physiotherapy	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Positive expiratory pressure (PEP)	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Exercise on its own	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Autogenic drainage	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Active cycle of breathing techniques	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
Other (glue or spacers)	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
High pressure PEP	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)
None	19 (11%)	19 (11%)	58 (33%)

Phillips et al. Physiother Theor Prac 2021; 11:3

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### We need the trials

B.

1. What are the effective ways of simplifying the treatment burden of people with Cystic Fibrosis?
2. How can we relieve gastro-intestinal (GI) symptoms, such as stomach pain, bloating and nausea in people with Cystic Fibrosis?
3. What is the best treatment for non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) in people with Cystic Fibrosis (including when to start and what medications)?
4. Which therapies are effective in delaying or preventing progression of lung disease in early life in people with Cystic Fibrosis?
5. Is there a way of preventing CF related diabetes (CFRD) in people with Cystic Fibrosis?
6. What effective ways of motivation, support and techniques help people with Cystic Fibrosis?
7. Can exercise replace chest physiotherapy for people with Cystic Fibrosis?

Should be used for Cystic Fibrosis exacerbations and should antibiotic combinations be rotated?

Is there a way of reducing the negative effects of antibiotics, for example resistance risk and adverse symptoms in people with Cystic Fibrosis?

10. What is the best way of evaluating Pseudomonas aeruginosa in people with Cystic Fibrosis?

C.

#### Would you support a trial of replacing some or all airway clearance techniques with exercise?

Response	Respondents (%)
Yes	75
No	10
In certain patients	10
Other	5

Fig. 1. Current CF practice and views on future trials. (A) Average number of sessions spent daily on ACT (n=302). Single response allowed per respondent. (B) Average time spent daily on ACT (n=302). Single response allowed per respondent. (C) The use of exercise, ACT and combinations of the two in survey respondents (n=303). Multiple responses allowed per respondent. (D) Responders reporting dropping an ACT session when they have exercised (n=203). Single response allowed per respondent. (E) Support for a trial of replacing ACT with exercise (n=193). Single response allowed per respondent.

Rowbotham et al. J Cyst Fibros 2020: e19-e24.  
Rowbotham et al. Thorax 2016; 73: 388-390.

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## Recommendations for clinical practice

- Exercise as an adjunct to ACT
- Individualised basis -> informed decision
  - Stability
    - PFTs
    - Exacerbations
  - Symptoms
    - Cough
    - Chest congestion
    - Sputum load
  - Adherence
- Intensity matters
- Not all forms of exercise are equal
- Must incorporate huffing/FET
- Need to consider:
  - Non-exercise days
  - Exacerbations

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## In summary

- Rationale exists for using exercise as a standalone form of airway clearance
  - Expiratory flow
  - Mucus properties
- We need the longer terms trials
  - equipoise
  - patient support
  - clinician support
- Interested in being part of a multi-centre trial:
  - [nathan.ward2@sa.gov.au](mailto:nathan.ward2@sa.gov.au)
  - [anne.holland@monash.edu](mailto:anne.holland@monash.edu)

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